

THE ATHENÆUM

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No. 1317.

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For the convenience of Subscribers residing in remote places, the weekly numbers are reissued in Monthly Parts, stitched in a wrapper, and forwarded with the Magazines.—Subscriptions for the Stampd Edition are for the Continent, for not less than Three Months, and in advance, and at the Publishing Office, 15, Wellington-street North, Strand, London. For France (JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT, CHANCERY LANE.) and other Countries not requiring the postage to be paid in London, 25fr. or 11. 2s. the year. To other Countries, the postage in addition.

CHINESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.

—King's College, London.—Professor SUMMERS, late Tutor in St. Paul's College, Hong Kong, will commence his COURSE OF INSTRUCTION in the CLASSICAL LANGUAGE and COLLOQUIAL DIALECTS OF CHINA, on Monday, January 23, 1853, at Three o'clock. Fee for the Term, 12s. R. W. JELF, D.D. King's College, London, Jan. 18, 1853.

MINEOLOGY.—KING'S COLLEGE,

LONDON.—Professor TENNANT, F.G.S., will commence the SECOND PART of his Course, consisting of Ten Lectures, on the Mineralogy, with a view to facilitate the Study of Geology, and of the Application of Mineral Substances to the Arts.—The Lectures will be illustrated by an extensive Collection of Specimens, and will COMMENCE on WEDNESDAY MORNING, January 24, at 9 o'clock. They will be continued on each succeeding Wednesday, at the same hour. Fee, One Guinea. R. W. JELF, D.D., Principal.

CAVENDISH SOCIETY.—The Seventh Vo-

lume (the commencement of the Organic Part) of 'Gmelin's Handbook of Chemistry' being completed. Members who have not yet paid the subscription for 1852 are requested to remit it to the Secretary, to facilitate the speedy distribution of the books. The Second Volume of 'Lehmann's Physiological Chemistry' is also nearly ready, and with this the Members will receive, as a third part, for 1852, an English edition of Dr. OTTO FUNK'S ATLAS OF PLATES relating to Physiological Chemistry. THEOPHILUS REDWOOD, Secretary.

19, Montague-street, Russell-square.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—

NOTICE TO MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS OF BRITISH SPECIMENS.—MONDAY, 23rd inst., will be the last day for receiving Specimens to entitle Members to participate in the distribution of the Duplicates in February, 1853. A List of Donors marked on the 2nd Edition of the 'London Catalogue of British Plants' must accompany each parcel. G. E. DENNES, Secretary.

29, Bedford-street, Strand, 7th Jan. 1853.

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SIGNOR A. BIAGGI'S ITALIAN CLASSES,

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MILL-HILL SCHOOL.

Head Master.

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The JUNIOR PUPILS will assemble on TUESDAY, Jan. 25.

The SENIOR PUPILS on WEDNESDAY, January 26.

The INTRODUCTORY LECTURES will be delivered on THURSDAY MORNING, January 27, immediately after which the Classes will commence.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1853.

REVIEWS

History of the Second War between the United States of America and Great Britain. Second Series. Embracing the Events of 1814 and 1815. By Charles J. Ingersoll. 2 vols. Philadelphia, Lippincott & Co.; London, Trübner & Co.

THIS is by no means an ordinary book. It is written in a truly American spirit,—and may on that account be recommended to all who are desirous of understanding the peculiar views of eminent American politicians—of whom the author is one—on subjects of political import. Besides this, it contains a great quantity of historical information likely to prove interesting on both sides of the Atlantic. The author is a man of decision and ability; and the opinions which he propounds, and his manner of propounding them, strike with an air of rough originality, according well with what we know of the political sentiments now prevailing in the United States, but not usually exemplified in the literary productions that reach us from that quarter. A new spirit, essentially American, has, as we have more than once observed, been latterly creeping into works issued from the American press; and though the present work, desultory and uncouth in form as it is, can hardly take a place among the American classics, it yet indicates the direction in which the American mind is moving, and presents, as it were, in the crude ore those feelings and ideas which enter into American nationality, and are in process of being dissolved in a finer essence through American literature.

The work, though professedly a history of the Second War between Great Britain and the United States, might more properly be entitled "An American's views of European politics, and of the mutual relations of Europe and America, *à propos* of the events of 1814-15." Though the author occasionally pursues a continuous narrative, he is constantly branching out into all kinds of discussions; and it is in these discussions that the chief value of the work, at least for European readers, will be found to lie. Indeed, three-fourths of the first volume are entirely taken up with what the writer intrudes as what he evidently considers an attractive digression,—namely, a dissertation from the American point of view on the character and career of Napoleon, as General, First Consul, Emperor, and Exile. It is to this portion of the work, which ought properly to have been published as an independent essay, that the reader will turn with most relish. In the remaining and more strictly narrative portions, however, there are many passages which will excite attention—none the less, that they are, as we have said, full of an intense national spirit, and therefore likely to provoke controversy on the part of British patriotism.

One of the favourite topics of Mr. Ingersoll is, the naval superiority of America over England. According to his account, the results of the war here discussed demonstrated that England can no longer claim the title of Queen of the Seas. This view he supports by a detailed account of the exploits of American privateers against the British navy and merchant ships. It was not only as a maritime nation, however, according to Mr. Ingersoll, that America asserted her character in 1814-15. She exhibited at the same time, he maintains, more particularly in the person of General Jackson—whom Mr. Ingersoll has a particular regard, and whom he exalts into the character of a truly American hero—her military prowess by land, performing through her volunteers and militia

the same feats of superiority over regular British troops which her fast-sailing privateers enacted over British ships of battle. The peculiarity of America as a belligerent power seems to lie, if we may judge from Mr. Ingersoll's representations, in the immense development which she has given, and is still capable of giving, to this system of volunteer warfare both by land and by sea.

Leaving this subject, however,—a subject calculated to excite bad blood, especially when brought forward in such a vehement and even braggart spirit as Mr. Ingersoll displays,—it is more pleasant to follow the author into his discussions as to the influence exerted by America over Europe during the last fifty years in the realm of "ideas." It is America, he maintains, that has furnished, and is still likely to furnish, those new views and doctrines both as to the government of individual States and as to international law which are likely to penetrate the social mind of the world, and describe in their course the great circle of the globe. In the following passage, Mr. Ingersoll suggests a view largely advocated throughout the whole work,—namely, that the peculiar activity of France from 1789 was in some measure a consequence of the inoculation of that country with American ideas.—

"Such noblemen as Turgot and La Fayette, enlightened by the good sense of universal benevolence, imbued with the spirit even if disowning the divinity of Christian charity, patronised the poor suitors of despised America; by arms and treaties encouraging a forlorn but fortunate insurrection. A wonderful people, as Washington termed the French, the same inconstant race who are yet exactly as characterised by Caesar, always changing, still the same, were then whispering to dull kings, and their blind ministers, those marvellous changes of polity which have since shaken the world to its centre. Louis XVI.—who lived like a fool, and did he die like a saint?—was the only man in his kingdom, except Turgot, who loved the people: 'for who,' asked Voltaire, 'loves the people?' With court, cabinet, camarilla, capital, and country, all ripe to rottenness, Franklin dealt, and Jefferson succeeded him; both new men from the new world; grave, gay, profound, and captivating apostles of its political discoveries, romantic essays, and progressive philosophy. Entertained by, and entertaining a people of dancers and mathematicians, cooks and chemists, soldiers and moralists, a plain American printer became the fashion; and getting the vogue, with steady hand and far-seeing glance, steered onward to, not his own alone, but his country's and mankind's, improvement. Voltaire, the master workman of French progress, who would have resisted and probably fallen under, had he lived to see the whirlwind of which he sowed the wind, courted by wits, feared by courts, admired by philosophers, adored by deists, idolised by women, wished to become acquainted with a transatlantic sage, so unlike the French; and stammering a few words of broken English, tried to speak 'the language of Franklin.' An irresolute and vacillating monarch, surrounded by dissolute courtiers, making epigrams and anagrams, and futile ministers attempting, by paltry parsimony, to save from revolution a kingdom so little burdened with debt that any efficient economist might have extinguished it, were raw materials of the work, which Franklin helped to begin and Jefferson to finish. Songs, jokes, and riddles, filling the saloons of Paris and Versailles, were the chief occupation of the chief men, while the wary American commissioner, not received as a foreign minister, retired at the modest village of Passy, adroitly inoculated susceptible France, not with confusion, rebellion, crime and confiscation, but economy, equality, liberty, and peace; beneficence, to be preceded by distressing severities, but developed throughout the population of France in greatly raising the degraded poor, usefully levelling the exalted, and equalizing the property and condition of all. History must declare that Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, and others who matriculated

in Europe the principles of American government, by fortunate contagion of the personal and trivial impressions always so important in the affairs of mankind, prevailed on the greatest nation of continental Europe, oppressed, impoverished, and weakly governed, to counteract England, not only by arms, but laws, treaties, codes, and systems of economy, all tending to peace, order, and utility."

We will make but one other extract from the more strictly historical part of Mr. Ingersoll's work. It is a passage of much interest, introduced in connexion with an account of the debates in Congress in 1814 on the propriety of accepting an offer of the ex-president Jefferson to sell his library to the Government:—an offer which he was induced to make by the state of his finances,—and which, as the destruction of the public buildings in Washington had left the Government without a library, it was supposed they would gladly accept.—

"Jefferson was the President of genius and reform; the only one of our first ten with whom I had no personal acquaintance. In my boyhood, but old enough to consider and remember, I saw Washington; in his coach, going to church, and at other times when drawn by six horses, with several servants in showy liveries; in his graceful and commanding seat on horseback; in a court-dress, small sword, and hair in a bag, delivering his farewell address to Congress; in his drawing-room, with his secretaries, Pickens, Hamilton, and Knox, smoking the pipe of peace with a tribe of Indians, all solemn as he was; and once, as school-fellow and playmate of his wife's grand-son, Mr. Custis, I had the casual honor of dining with him in the grave and nearly taciturn dignity of his family circle, with several servants in attendance, and a secretary, Mr. Dandridge, officiating as carver. General Washington's Revolution camp-table chest, presented to Congress on the 18th of April, 1844, as a relic to be preserved, is one of many proofs that he not only loved good cheer, but, as governor or manager of men, promoted conviviality as an affair of state and convenience for business. Almost all accounts represent him as grave and stately. But I have known, intimately, ladies who danced with him; have heard companions of his pastime hours describe his enjoyment of not only the pleasures of the table, but those songs of immodest merriment, then so common a part of such pleasures. I heard an officer of his military family entertain La Fayette with a recital of some of the oaths which General Washington uttered with passionate outbreak, when disobeyed and disappointed in battle; I have seen his minute, written directions for the liveries of his servants, and concerning the choice and rent of a house; and have been assured, by a gentleman who spent some days with him at Mount Vernon, when no longer on his guard, that the once reserved and solemn statesman chatted freely on all subjects. Chief founder of cheap and simple government, by chary modifications of the mother-country monarchy, Washington's fortune enabled him to dispense with public bounty—to decline pay as a general and a house as President. Jefferson, incurring malediction by reforming a parsimonious republic, lived fourteen years beyond his presidency, without adequate means for unavoidable hospitality, and left his family in the bondage of debt, deploring the dire necessity of sacrificing his library. The Constitution, Acts of Congress, and custom, open the chief magistrate's mansion to great resort, after as well as during a presidency; and Monticello was a shrine for social and literary, scientific and political votaries. However beautiful, even to sublimity, in theory, is that demonstration of republican virtue, by which a ruler voluntarily retires from executive authority to powerless seclusion, it was practically attempted, in vain, by Jefferson and his presidential disciples, Madison and Monroe. Tumultuary convalescences to select presidential candidates falsify the theory of republican government like impoverished retirement forcing the sale of libraries to pay debts. Endowed with similitude to regal majesty, not only in power, but by a palace to inhabit, richly furnished at public expense, and the incumbent salaried for dignity, to be thence degraded to shifts for livelihood, and insolvent applications to Congress for relief, are vicissitudes more fatal to republican virtue than

pensions. A pension-fund for those who 'by long and faithful services deserve the gratitude of their country' was soon found indispensable to this; and, during Jefferson's presidency, a permanent pension system was arranged by Act of Congress: but, confined to fighting men, essentially unrepugnant; rewarding warriors alone, encouraging hostilities, and altogether monarchical. Public servants, like Jefferson, who spent life in inculcations of peace and development of prosperity, are left to struggle, pine, and die, in base indigence, while the militant are profusely provided for, and nearly all their kindred. * * Washington declined the residence proposed for him as President. Modern Presidents might imitate that wise reserve. For why should a President inhabit a palace to-day, if liable to dwell in an almshouse to-morrow?—keep a palace of public entertainment as President, and then be reduced to a hermitage? Luxurious and ostentatious living is no part of the presidential function. But not to spend in refined hospitality all that Congress allow a President, Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Jackson, deemed inconsistent with an elevated position. The fate of impoverished families may induce successors to hoard what was given to spend; till, for want of a just and moderate pension-system, the presidency is sought, not for honour, but gain. As a democratic member of Congress uniformly voting for these irregular, but indispensable gratuities, I submit them as deplorable consequences of the retrograde reform and costly parsimony sometimes deranging republican government and impairing its virtue. The sale of Jefferson's library was the first step in that decline, of all others the most dangerous, which renders ambition the slave of want, and avarice wisdom."

That portion of the first volume which we have represented as being in reality an interpolated review of the character and career of Napoleon, abounds in passages of the kind usually described as "capital reading." It is full, not only of discussion, but also of anecdote; and, on the whole, is almost as interesting an account of Napoleon and all his family-relations as that published under the name of Bourrienne, with the advantage of being more novel, and written in a spirit of higher appreciation. The ostensible reason assigned by the author for introducing so bulky a digression is, that America was lately connected with the great European movement of that time. "French princes and personages," he says, "coming to or going from America, and performing important parts in France, may be shown in American lights, and developed with republican edification. Laroche-foucauld, Louis-Philippe, Talleyrand, Chateaubriand, Hyde de Neuville and other eminent royalists,—Volney, Brissot, La Fayette, and Moreau, republicans,—Joseph Bonaparte, with several more of his family,—besides Grouchy, Clausel, Real, Regnaud, sons of Ney, of Lannes, and of Fouché, outcasts, in America, of the French Empire—recurring from Marbois, in 1779, to Tocqueville, in 1832—supply French incidents and characters for American history." The real reason for the important digression in question, however, is probably that indicated in the following passage.—

"For some of these disclosures mine are accidentally peculiar advantages. Of the Spanish American revolutions, except that of Mexico, I am aware of no complete history, and my limited information is mostly derived from books or other publications. But of the Spanish invasion, its antecedents, accompaniments, and consequences; of the advent, government, real character, abdications, overthrow of, and of the family of Napoleon, I am better informed, by five-and-twenty years' intimacy with Joseph Bonaparte, than any other who has written in English concerning them. Frenchmen, if acquainted with the realities known to me, could hardly publish them without partiality, nor Englishmen without prejudice. My source of information being Bonaparte's most intimate and confidential brother, cannot be entirely free from bias, neither mine or his; for, as Napoleon was a man exceedingly fascinating, so Joseph was very winning. Yet I deem it

a great American qualification for these disclosures to be free from that awe of sovereigns, and deference for personages, which in Europe are traditional impressions that can hardly be got rid of. From Joseph Bonaparte's familiar and confidential personal intercourse; from his library, containing all the modern memoirs and other French historical works, constantly explained by him and margined with notes in his writing; from, therefore, the highest, though they may be biased, sources of information, I derive my materials."

Mr. Ingersoll's view of Napoleon may be said to be one of enthusiastic admiration, tempered by a strong and free spirit of American criticism. It is the Emperor viewed neither from London nor from Paris,—but from the banks of the Mississippi,—where a writer can afford to mingle his respect even for such a phenomenon as Napoleon with a dash of personal carelessness in contemplating Cis-Atlantic things. The author thus describes his own first sight of Napoleon.—

"Three years afterwards, in the autumn of 1802, I saw Bonaparte, then Consul for life, with authority to appoint his successor, which advance on monarchy he had already reached. By the treaty of Amiens, in March, 1801, England, with all the rest of the world, recognized in his person, not a king or emperor by title, but a French ruler with great power and attributes. Paris was full of English; their handsome ambassador, Lord Whitworth, with his wife, the Duchess of Dorset, Fox, Erskine, Lord Henry Petty, since Marquis of Lansdowne, with his Swiss tutor Dumont, the intimate of Jeremy Bentham and Romilly, Alexander Baring, afterwards Lord Ashburton, with his American wife and her father, ex-Senator of the United States, William Bingham, and other distinguished persons, whom I met, and Joseph Bonaparte, at the house of the American minister, Robert R. Livingston. Like most American ministers in France, Mr. Livingston far exceeded his salary in sustaining elegant hospitality. Mr. Bingham, too, lived elegantly and hospitably; and Franklin's grandson, Temple Franklin, on a smaller scale, kept a gay and handsome home. Rufus King, the American minister in England, with whom I went from London to Paris, did not care to be presented at the Consular court; and even if he had been, I was not within the regulations established for that honour; so that I saw the First Consul only at his reviews and the opera, and my description of him, partly from personal observation, must be made up chiefly from that of others. The small bronze, full-length statue of General Bonaparte, bequeathed to me by Joseph Bonaparte's will, is a good likeness of Napoleon's person as I saw him, thin and pallid, with a mild and languid Italian expression. It has the queue which he wore in Italy, and I believe Egypt, with large locks of hair over the ears, instead of the chestnut crop which, as I stood near him in the Tuileries, I saw him brush up with one hand while he held his hat in the other. His personal appearance then was perhaps most remarkable for its extreme dissimilitude to his colossal character: not only uncommonly small, but looking still more diminutive and young, owing to a smooth, almost beardless, and unpretending countenance, without anything martial or imposing in his air or manner. He looked, I thought, like a modest midshipman. His height was but five feet two inches, French measure, equal to five feet seven inches English or American. Between Bonaparte as I saw him, slender, pale, and small, and the Emperor Napoleon, grown fat and stout, there must have been considerable difference of appearance."

After this, there follow an immense number of little particulars as to the personal habits of Napoleon,—and a more detailed account than we have seen anywhere else of the history of all the other members of the Bonaparte family, from Lætitia the mother to Louis-Napoleon the nephew:—both being derived in a great measure from the author's intimacy with Joseph Bonaparte. Here is Mr. Ingersoll's summary of his opinion, as thence derived, of Napoleon's moral character,—obviously coloured by the partial source from which it comes,—and in-

volving a curious interpretation of Madame de Staël's hostility to the Emperor.—

"Monstrous ambition, and tremendous downfall, have given colour to the vast detraction to which Napoleon was subjected. And it will be some time before the truth can be gradually established. But it has been in continual progress of emancipation since his fall; and posterity will recognize him, not only as a great, but likewise, in many respects, a good man, excelling in private and domestic virtues. Napoleon's morals were not only exemplary, but singular, compared with contemporary monarchs like Charles X. of France, Charles IV. of Spain, and George IV. of England, depraved and dissolute men, more odious and despicable when compared with him as individuals than as monarchs. Even the most benevolent and brilliant of the monarchs of his age, the Emperor Alexander, was a man of much less domestic virtue, or personal decorum, than Napoleon, and quite as rapacious of extensive empire. Marshal Grouchy told me that, at Tilsit, the Emperor Alexander honoured him, one day, with a long interview and free conversation; in the course of which the Emperor said that people must not insist on the same standard of morality for monarchs as for other men, which his imperial majesty pronounced impracticable. Napoleon, apart from rabid ambition, was a model of domestic, particularly matrimonial virtues, far exceeding most of not only the royalty, but the aristocracy of Europe. The most pertinacious and effectual French authors of his overthrow were Talleyrand, Fouché, Madame de Staël, and La Fayette. Compared with either Talleyrand or Fouché, the purity of Napoleon's character, public or private, will hardly be denied. He was a much chaster man than Madame de Staël was a woman. She and La Fayette were indebted to him for kindnesses such as could hardly be compensated. Nor were all the evils of his undeniable despotism so injurious to France as the Bourbon restoration, of which La Fayette and De Staël were chief contrivers. Accepted, as George IV. and Charles X. were by England and France, as respectively the first gentlemen of those kingdoms, Napoleon, in all the fascinations of manners, politeness, and study to please, was much more of a gentleman than either of them. Louis Philippe's father, the Duke of Orleans, Charles X., when Count of Artois, and George IV., as Prince of Wales, contemporaries, were, together, three of the most dissolute young men, not long before Lieutenant, and for several years Captain, then Major Bonaparte, not remarkable, because unknown, was constant in virtuous and irreproachable deportment. Madame de Staël sneers at his want of high-bred polish. But his superior wit she never forgave. Few individuals, probably no one, had more influence in undermining and discrediting the Empire of Napoleon than a woman who made love to him, and then took vengeance because he treated her courtship not only repulsively, but contemptuously. When he returned from Egypt, there were but two females who had any power over the young conqueror of thirty. They were his wife and his mother. General Bonaparte was a chaste, faithful, fond husband and son, on whom all the feminine attractions and temptations of Paris were thrown away.—Dressed simply, lived domestically, and unostentatiously avoiding all female connexions beyond his own family. The celebrated Neckar's highly accomplished daughter, French wife of the Swedish ambassador, Madame de Staël, extremely ugly, witty, fashionable and free, with amazing talents and unbridled love of display, of distinction, of money, and of men, went to work to subdue Bonaparte as soon as he returned from Egypt to Paris, immense in heroic renown, and innocent of all love but for his family. Whenever Madame de Staël fell in with him, in public or private, she spared no expenditure of language, looks, airs, graces, and enticements, to fascinate his intimacy, brilliant as she was in conversation on almost any subject. She kept up, also, a continual fire of notes to Madame Bonaparte, who would hand them to her husband, and say, 'Here, my friend, is a billet-doux, addressed to me, but intended for you.' At length, at a party of Talleyrand's, Madame de Staël made her most desperate onset, which Bonaparte repelled and defeated, after the sharpest encounter of both their masterly wits. Publicly rejected, she

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vowed vengeance. Her violent retaliation induced him afterwards, unwisely and unfortunately, to banish her from Paris to Switzerland, where, for more than ten years of solitary exile, she brooded and matured the revenge, to which few persons, not all the French royalists combined, contributed more acrimonious disparagement. His sarcastic wit made many more bitter enemies than that formidable woman."

We cannot follow the author into his more express criticisms of Napoleon's political career. These, though always made in a spirit of extreme veneration, are often "slashing" enough, — as becomes a writer who is convinced, to use his own big language, that "to Transatlantic independence it belongs to help posterity to understand the real character of that dictator, rescued from European, both exasperated denigration and awe-struck adulation" — and that "American language and influence will dictate philosophy and history among the posterities." We ought to mention, however, as a fact interesting to publishers and to the world in general, that Mr. Ingersoll states his belief that there is still somewhere extant and unpublished a mass of letters written to Napoleon during his Consulate and Empire by the European sovereigns — particularly Paul and Alexander of Russia, the Emperor Francis of Austria, the Electors of Bavaria and Wurtemberg, and the Spanish royal family. The originals of these letters, "couched in terms of base adulation and rapacious solicitation," were left, he says, in Europe, on the Emperor's deportation to St. Helena, but have either been destroyed or given up to great personages interested in suppressing them. Copies, however, had been made; two sets of which were once in Joseph Bonaparte's possession, and may yet be accessible, on search. Mr. Ingersoll says, that Joseph, on inquiring after the originals of the letters during his stay in England in 1837, found that a portion of them had been offered for sale by an unknown person to Mr. Murray, the publisher, in 1822, and declined by that gentleman from doubts as to their genuineness. The present Mr. Murray may possibly know how far, as regards this statement, Mr. Ingersoll's great authority may be relied on.

The quotations that we have made suggest a concluding remark as to Mr. Ingersoll's style. It is a rough, energetic style, not deficient in happy and vivid expressions; but we have rarely met with American writing more contemptuous not only of English rules, but of the reader's respiratory convenience. The punctuation is often deplorably bad; many words are used in what must be purely American senses, such as "improve" for "prove"; and in such constantly recurring phrases as these—"virgin American Admiralty law," "novel fiscal belligerent improvement," "magnificent equatorial sunshine gilded northern arms inexplicably favoured by southern reticence,"—we see carried to an unprecedented extent the disposition of Americans to banish particles and small expletives from the language, as unnecessary luggage for a "go-ahead" people. The book is hard to read because of the uncouthness of its forms.

Reynard the Fox. A Poem in Twelve Cantos.

Translated from the German, by E. W. Holloway. With Thirty-seven Engravings on Steel, after Designs by H. Leutemann. Dresden and Leipzig, A. H. Payne; London, French.

THE materials for this translation of the famous Low German poem, "*Reineke Vos*," have been taken from Goethe's hexameter version; which follows the text with remarkable closeness, while substituting for the old doggerel of the original a sedate and fluent sententiousness of

manner well suited to the intrinsically epic character of the work, and enhancing its humorous effect. In turning this celebrated version into English, Mr. Holloway has adopted the freer metrical form in which Scott composed his romantic poems; and thereby comes somewhat nearer to the form of the ancient text,—although he has not been quite successful in copying the quaint and hearty simplicity, which is in some degree inseparable from its roughness. To give a direct equivalent for its old-fashioned jingle, in modern verse, would indeed be a task of difficulty: and this may have been one of the causes which led Goethe to take a way of his own in restoring the work of the old minstrel,—although the German is more apt for a close repetition than our language; as may be seen in the loose measures (*Knittelverse*), used with such happy effect in 'Faust' and in 'Wallenstein's Camp,' which nearly represent, in a modern dress, the semi-prosaic, naïve, and robust versification of the old rhymesters. With us no style of this kind has been preserved in literature; so that in trying to repeat the accent of such homespun ditties as "*Reineke Vos*," the English translator runs the risk of either seeming utterly flat and awkward, or of dressing out the model in a style too ornate for its rustic lineaments. That Mr. Holloway in the present instance has not wholly escaped such transgressions, can hardly be imputed to him as a personal fault. His excuse may fairly be grounded on the fact, that among our received poetic tones, the humble Doric—which alone could re-echo the strain of a narrative poem of the 14th century—has long ceased to find a place.

The poem is introduced by a succinct, well-written preface,—for the substance of which Mr. Holloway is indebted to the learned disquisition prefixed by Jacob Grimm to his edition of the Reinhart poems, entitled "*Reinhart Fuchs*," which appeared in Berlin in 1834. The peculiar nature and principle of the "*Brute-Epic*" (*Thierepos*) generally,—the origin and supposed authorship of the poem immediately in question,—its different MSS., versions, and editions, from the first publication (Lübeck, 1498, of which a reprint was edited in 1834 by Hoffmann von Fallersleben) down to the latest translation by Simrock,—are briefly discussed and stated: so that the reader, after he has gone over the preface, even though he should have previously heard nothing of this characteristic offspring of the middle ages, will be prepared to take it in hand with a good chance of entering into and enjoying its rich humour and masculine satire.

Still more will his enjoyment and understanding of both be enhanced in the present edition by the engravings which accompany the text, from drawings by Leutemann. These may be praised as excelling in cleverness and drollery all that have hitherto appeared on this popular subject. The artist has adroitly hit the line, so difficult to keep in travesties of the kind, between the borrowed human costume and the animal character: his beasts, while they figure with ludicrous state and well-chosen attributes in the various professions and dignities assigned to them, always retain their natural features in due predominance: so that the broad farce or satirical effect of their assumed parts is heightened by the fitness of their animal properties to the several human vocations,—in the pungent application of which consists the life of the apologue. The telling effect of these sketches on modern eyes is increased by a number of new supplementary traits, which glance at the immediate history and habits of the day; these are slyly introduced, in the right Hogarthian manner, among

the accessories of the composition, with laughable ingenuity. For instance:—in the composition which illustrates Reynard's story of "King Log and King Stork," the latter is shown in the act of swallowing an unlucky frog, whose hand still clutches a sheet of the recent "constitution" declaring that "the person of the representative is inviolable." In the scene of Reynard's last speech on the gallows-ladder, a puppy in the corner, with open shirt collar and hair smoothed down in the newest style of "art," is engaged in taking a crayon sketch of the ceremony for the "*Illustrated Journal*;" an ass peering over his shoulder well represents that poorest of modern parasites, the artist's trumpeter:—and so on throughout the series, wherever a mischievous allusion can be thrown in to sharpen the caricature of human weakness or absurdity. Most of these allusions to subjects of to-day, turn, as might be expected in the present state of Germany, on political themes,—but they display, what might not have been altogether expected, more of mirth than of bitterness. On the whole, the artistic may be fairly described as the better part of this joint production.

Of the quality of translation, the following extract will afford a sufficient idea. Reynard, having determined to obey the third summons, which commands his appearance at the Lion's Court to answer the charge against him, is on his way thither, in company with Nephew Grimbart (*Grimbeard*), the Badger; and has prepared himself for the worst by confessing to his companion a long catalogue of his crimes—in relating which the rogue evidently dwells with the highest gusto upon the wicked tricks that he has played, with audacity and success, upon Bruin (the Bear), Isegrim (the Wolf), and many other of the peers of King Noble's (the Lion's) court. Grimbart hereupon proceeds to absolve him. The satire of the ceremony will not be overlooked: nor the spirit of the subsequent commentary on the value of the penitent's contrition.—

Grimbart knew how to meet the case,
For he was of a crafty race;
He plucked a twig beside the way,
And to his penitent did say:—
"Thrice o'er the back, I charge thee, smite
Thyself with this,—with all thy might,—
Then lay it down before thee there,
Leap o'er it thrice with pious care.
Kiss then the rod, with penitence;
And I forgive thee each offence,—
Pronounce these clear and free from all
Thy many sins, both great and small."
With solemn face, but willing heart,
The Fox perform'd the allotted part;
And, Reynard's penance duly paid,
This exhortation Grimbart made:—
"Friend, let thy penitence appear
In thy good works, in faith and prayer;
For sake thy former evil ways,
From labour rest on holy days,
Frequent each church and sacred place,
And thou 'lt attain to heaven's grace."
Quoth Reynard: "This I'll strive to do;
I promise,—nay, I swear it, too."

When Reynard's shift at length was o'er,
The pair resumed their way once more:—
Beyond was spread a fertile land,
A cloister lay on the right hand,
By nuns possessed,—within whose pens
Were rear'd unnumbered cocks and hens,

Fat geese and capon prime;
On these, when from the yard they strayed,
Reynard had fearful forays made.

On many a former time;
And now to Grimbart did he say,
"Nephew, it is the nearest way
By yonder cloister gate!"—
For near the wall the knave had seen
Fat poultry strolling o'er the green;
And as the feathered folk he neared,
With greedy lust his eyeballs glared,
And he bethought him straight,
How well a fat young hen would taste
Which chanced to lag behind the rest,
As he was passing by.—
Sudden he made a desperate bound,—
But missed his prey,—although around
He made her feathers fly.

As thus his penitent proceeds,
Grimbart exclaims:—"Are such thy deeds,

Sinner unblest? Wilt thou again
Thy soul with new offences stain—
And, thy confession scarcely done,
A new career of evil run?"—
Reynard replied: "Oh, nephew dear,
'Twas done without a thought, I swear!
And I will offer prayers to heaven
That this new sin may be forgiven."

Around the convent now they strode,
And sought to gain their former road,—
Reynard seemed in reflection lost,—
But as a narrow bridge they crossed,
Grimbart with anger spies,
How Reynard on the verdant plain
Still watched the distant feathered train,
With eager, longing eyes.—
So hard he gazed, that if his head
Had been struck off, it would have fled
To seize upon the prize.

Cries Grimbart: "Oh, thou greedy wight!
Can'st thou not turn thy sinful sight
From yonder fowls away?"
Reynard replied: "Thy speech is vain!
I merely turned me round again,
Murmuring an inward *Paternoster*
For fens that die in yonder cloister;
And also I would say
A prayer for the eternal peace
Of many long departed Geese,
Which I, when in a state of sin,
Stole from the nuns who dwell therein."—
Grimbart said nought; and Reynard still
Gazed on, until a rising hill
Concealed the prospect fair:—
But now once more the path they tread
Which to the monarch's palace led:—
And while sly Reynard pondered o'er
The crimes he had to answer for,
His brow grew dark with care.

It only remains to add, that Mr. Holloway, with an eye to the general circulation of his work, has judiciously expunged from it those passages of the original which might sound offensively in delicate ears. These are not many,—for the old poet, although far enough from any sort of refinement, and never shrinking from a broad jest on account of the coarseness of its point,—has nothing intentionally gross in his design, the general satire of which is free from impure allusions, to a degree that will not be found in most serio-comic poems of ages far more civilized than his. Accordingly, the omission of his looser passages—and of an outspoken line or phrase here and there—leaves every essential feature of the story untouched,—while it allows the most fastidious to make acquaintance with a work, than which there are few more racy, festive, and original outwardly,—or more deeply imbued at heart with serious, but not sullen, reflection on vices of human society, which are the same in all ages.

The Dorp and the Veld; or, Six Months in Natal. By Charles Barter. Orr & Co.

THIS is a novelty in the way of books on the South African colonies. Most other writers on the subject have either abused the settlement—as men abuse Cape wines—heartily and without reserve,—or have painted it in rose colours, as a country of unimaginable greenness and sunshine. Mr. Barter repudiates both these courses. He does not hate the land and despise the inhabitants,—in fact, it is evident enough that he loves the first and respects the other: yet he formally sets out with the intention of saying the worst that he can of both. The dispraise is deliberate and on principle. When he has completed his account, he turns upon his reader, and exclaims—"Now, you have heard the worst of it, and you may treat all depreciating accounts that go beyond this with contempt." This line of argument has its own advantage; and, in consequence either of the writer's liveliness, his exact knowledge, his power of graphic description,—or of this particular fashion of making the pictures up,—the effect of the volume is, that the natural features, the resources, and the fitness of Natal as a region for colonial enterprise, are all clearly and distinctly fixed on the reader's mind.

Mr. Barter has some claims to a hearing on Colonial questions; having, as he says, "farmed

and lumbered in New Brunswick, and traversed Canada from east to west,—been in nearly all the United States,—and made himself as familiar with the Ohio and Mississippi as with the Thames and Seine." He further describes himself as a man who has had a life-long interest in emigration,—and as a collector of "authentic information" about those colonies which he has not visited in person. Thus much of explanation is necessary to enable the home reader to judge of the value of Mr. Barter's opinions on disputed questions of colonial policy.

As a writer, Mr. Barter excels in slight pictorial sketches. He puts an anecdote positively before the reader; and he rises into fervour—if not into positive eloquence—whenever his subject draws him on to speak of the general policy and interests of the Anglo-Saxon in South Africa. Here, to begin with, is a clear daguerreotype of the little settlement of D'Urban, worthy of a Mayall's studio.—

"D'Urban is supposed to be laid out in streets at right angles, but the various forms of the buildings, the clumps of bush which continually intervene, and the sandy plain on which the whole place stands, give it a very irregular, but at the same time a picturesque appearance. Now a neat little brick cottage presents itself, with green verandah and low thatched roof. Now an edifice of wattle and dab, which, though it is nothing more than a series of large sheep hurdles plastered with mud, makes a very comfortable habitation; reed and dab is preferred by some, as offering more effectual resistance to the attacks of the white ant. Here stands an uncouth building of corrugated iron, there a Kaffir hut of sticks and grass, looking like a large and very rough bee-hive; by its side a house of boards, and in one or two instances, a stone or brick building of two stories. Houses of every kind were in process of erection, while clusters of tents here and there showed where the newly arrived emigrants were making their first essay of colonial hardships, and completed the foreground of the picture. It was backed by the fine sweep of the Berea, a densely-wooded hill, which almost encircles the plain, and shuts out the view of the interior,—destined, perhaps, hereafter to be the site of many a beautiful villa, but at present almost impervious to the white man, the favourite abode of snakes and leopards, and not unfrequently visited by herds of wandering elephants. It was Sunday, and the gay plumage of the fair part of the population, while it showed that even here fashion had her votaries, formed an odd contrast with the dusky, though not ungraceful limbs of the naked Kaffirs, whom we met at every turn, and whose appearance after all, was most in keeping with the *tout ensemble* of the scene. The dress of the men generally was not out of character, though every now and then the absurd custom of black coat and cylinder hat, under a burning sun, reminded one strongly of the self-imposed tortures of the Hindoos, and argued little for the common sense of the wearers."

From the natural aspects of the place, Mr. Barter passes to a description of manners and modes of life. Here is a paragraph, including an anecdote or two, that serves to suggest a whole system of social arrangements.—

"The established law of the colony is the Dutch Roman law, which, though needing reformation in several essential points, is in many respects well suited to the wants of an infant community. Actions for debt are among the most fruitful causes of litigation, and give employment to a whole host of attorneys, who, being all allowed to plead, do not contribute much to the dignity of the profession. Their bills, too, are no exception to the universal rule. An amusing instance of this occurred to a friend of mine, who, having been charged twenty-five pounds for the drawing up of a lease which ought not to have cost five pounds, and objecting to pay so exorbitant a demand, was immediately presented with a receipt in full,—the attorney preferring to cancel a debt, with an air of integrity, rather than admit himself to be in the wrong by abating his claim. Nor is

the union of many different employments thought prejudicial to success in any one business or profession. It might not be impossible to find united in one individual the various functions of lawyer, sectarian preacher, editor, store-keeper, agent, and politician, all discharged with equal energy and punctuality, and really serving rather to assist than interfere with each other. Do you want a horse? Your attorney has one at a low figure, made on purpose for you. Has your own animal a sore back or any other disease? or is he a confirmed kicker? Your attorney will play the veterinary surgeon or rough-rider for you with equal skill and confidence; and should either remedy fail, will assist you in getting rid of the useless incumbrance. Have you need of anything—from a waggon to a spade, from a house to a clasp knife? your attorney, if you choose aright, shall supply your wants, and save you much time and trouble; I do not add money,—that is another question."

Of the Dutch Roman law, still in force at the Cape, we have a story afterwards.—

"On the death of her husband the widow becomes entitled to three-fourths of the property, the remaining fourth being divided among the children, who are thus left comparatively destitute, in the very probable event of their mother's contracting a second marriage. This may, of course, be avoided by a previous deed of settlement, or, as it is here called, an ante-nuptial contract, but to such a proceeding the ladies naturally entertain a very decided repugnance; and once when I was rash enough to attempt its defence in their presence, a torrent of reproaches poured in upon me, and to fill up the measure of my confusion, a haughty maiden with flashing eyes exclaimed, 'Sir, were a man to make such a proposal to me, had he the wealth of a king and the virtues of a saint, I should give him his dismissal on the spot.' I was silenced, as the reader may suppose, and was careful not to offend again in like manner during my residence in the country, and even here, though at a tolerably safe distance, I write these words with fear and trembling."

In another part of the volume, we have a graphic portrait of the "Smous"—the wandering pedlar of the wilderness—a character racy of the soil of Southern Africa, which we will transfer to these columns.—

"A waggon, which had passed us the previous evening, stood on one side of the road, its long *trek touw* hanging idly on the ground, while a thick smoke that struggled up through the fine rain, and a savoury odour that greeted our nostrils, were unmistakable signs of that cooking animal, man. We soon recognized Mr. Murphy, one of those enterprising traders, or, as they are colonially termed, *emousen*, who journey through the deserts of the interior supplying the wants which have arisen with the growth of civilization among the remote Boers and natives, and who are, to the scattered population of their thinly-inhabited districts what the itinerant pedlars once were to the secluded villages of England—retailers of damaged stuffs and old news, of tinsel jewellery and idle gossip. Like the pedlars also, if report speaks truly, they have no objection, when they meet with a safe customer, to deal in contraband goods, and many a musket, and many a pound of powder that are now doing terrible execution upon our brave soldiers, may have been supplied by their agency. They seldom deal for money. The Boer is naturally a hoarder of gold, and is very loth to open the chest, or disturb the buried stocking; and, as for the savage, his wealth does not consist in stamped coin. But their waggons return to the great towns loaded with bags of *mealies* (Indian corn), or with a far more precious cargo of ivory and skins, while herds of cattle and horses, the produce of many a clever bargain, follow in their train. There are few people for whom a roving occupation like this, once experienced, does not possess a peculiar fascination; nor is the African *smous* an exception to the rule,—hardship, privation and danger threaten him in vain. His waggon may break down in the bare desert, where not a stick can be found to repair the damage; his cattle may sicken and die, his oxen fall in mid-journey; the lion may carry off his best horses, whose price had already been fixed, and for whom a sure purchaser was in prospect; he may suffer

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hunger and thirst, and the extremes of heat and cold; none of these things are sufficient to disenchant him, or to inspire him with a wish for a more settled and less adventurous existence; the town soon wears him, and, after snatching a short, though often a riotous season of enjoyment, as men are wont to do when intervals of holiday are brief and far between—the sailor on shore, the Australian settler on his annual visit to Sidney with his yield of wool, the Canadian lumberer when 'stream-driving' is over, and the logs of a winter's chopping delivered to a merchant—like these, he returns with fresh zest to his darling occupation; his waggon is reloaded with goods, his oxen inspanned, and he is off again to the wilderness, prepared, if need be, to encounter the same, or even greater hardships than before, and confident, in the end, of reaping a golden harvest."

It would seem impossible to have any account of the Cape colonies without lion hunts or lion adventures of some kind. If the colonist will not go to the lion, the lion will assuredly come to the colonist. Mr. Barter has woven into his text some anecdotes and illustrations of this element of romance and peril in the African settler's life, from which we extract the following:—

"Virgil tells us of a youthful hero who, while enjoying the puny sport of stag-hunting, longed to see a tawny lion approach; but even Ascanius might have been taken aback had he found himself unexpectedly brought face to face with four; and it was no disparagement to my friend's courage to say that he felt, as he candidly confessed, anything but comfortable. He was armed only with a single-barrelled rifle, and his horse, old Schutkraal, was in no plight for a race with the king of beasts, which can outstrip the swiftest antelope. In this emergency, however, his presence of mind did not forsake him, and knowing that to show any symptom of fear would increase the danger of his position, he pulled short up, and sat motionless, with his eye fixed upon his formidable adversaries. The three females dropped quietly upon their haunches, gravely returning stare for stare; while the old 'mannetje,' as the Dutch familiarly call him, a splendid fellow, with a long black mane, and his sides literally shaking with fat, stood a little in front, ever and anon whisking his tail over his back, but made no movement in advance. Barkley, on his part, had no idea of commencing hostilities, and when this mute interview had lasted some minutes, he turned his horse's head round, and rode slowly away. No motion was made in pursuit, and as long as the spot was in sight, he could distinguish the four figures, to all appearance remaining precisely in the same position in which he had left them. In his way back, he found the carcass of a quagga, not a quarter of a mile from our tent, recently killed, and bearing evident marks of his late acquaintance's workmanship. We sent the boys for it; the ribs had been picked clean, but the hind-quarters gave the poor dogs two or three hearty meals. We congratulated our friend on his escape, which was the more remarkable, as during this month and the next, these animals are especially savage and unapproachable. Lions are indeed something more than mere bugbears in this country. Some time before our arrival, Hans de Lange had a valuable horse destroyed by them in the very market-place of Harrismith. His native servant, on rising one morning, to set about his daily labours, was suddenly heard to exclaim: '*Daar leg een zwart ding!*' (There lies a black thing), and immediately afterwards: '*Keek! daar loop een geel ding! het lyk net zoo als een leeuw.*' (Look, there goes a yellow thing. It is very like a lion). And a lion it was, who, after deliberately contemplating the 'black thing,' no other than the carcass of De Lange's favourite black horse, turned round, and trotted away, as if indifferent about pursuit. Hans, however, did not take the matter quite so coolly; but, burning with rage at his loss, and at the impudence of the old *skelm*, as he called him, seized his trusty roer, and throwing himself upon the first horse he could find, without waiting for assistance, started off at a speed that soon brought him on the heels of the lion, who, finding himself pressed, bounded up a small *xant*, and having thus secured a vantage ground, faced his pursuer, and stood at bay. A large dog that was rash enough to venture within his reach he caught

up, and, with one light stroke of his paw, swept him under his chest, when the flowing main completely hid it from sight. Meanwhile Hans had dismounted, and now taking a steady aim, lodged a bullet just behind the shoulder. The lion neither fell nor moved till a second bullet from the same barrel had struck him, and in the same fatal spot. He then sprang forward. One bound would have ended the old Dutchman's history; but another of his faithful dogs throws himself in the way, only to share the instantaneous fate of his comrade. The delay is but for a moment; but Hans, whose self-possession has never failed him, takes advantage of it to reload, and, quick as lightning, the heavy roer is at his shoulder, the unerring ball finds its mark, and the noble beast sinks slowly down, and expires without a struggle. The skin was given to Barkley, who has brought it with him to England; the three holes are so close that they may be easily covered at once with three fingers. The old Boer thinks little of the exploit, but still grieves over his horse, whose bones he pointed out to us, bleaching in the spot where the catastrophe occurred, with the characteristic observation, '*Daar leg dertig ponden!*' (There lie 301!)"

On the vexed question of our treatment of the natives Mr. Barter entertains strong opinions. When broadly stated, they appear extreme—for he proposes nothing less than to sweep the country, "from Natal to Algoa Bay, from the Stormberg and Kathlamba mountains to the sea," of the Kaffir tribes, and to extirpate the whole of the Bosjesman nation. These proposals will doubtless bring a storm of indignation about the writer's ears. However strong may be the political reasons for the course insisted on by Mr. Barter, there are moral considerations which will make men pause in such a work. Of course there are—and there ever must be—difficulties to contend with, wherever races of opposite character and various degrees of culture come into immediate contact:—but the difficulties in this case have not been created by the Hottentot and the Kaffir. Their contact with the White man is quite involuntary. They did not seek our shores—they did not invite us to seize their land and drive their cattle from the immemorial pastures. The white man sought the difficulties which now beset him,—and it will be a poor evidence of his superior intellect and civilization if he cannot cope with the perplexities which he has created for himself without resorting to the barbarian expedient of destroying those whom he knows not how to govern.

On this point we take it Mr. Barter represents a growing feeling in the colony:—and though we cannot agree with him that there is no possible course between the abandonment of Natal and the extirpation of the natives, we are not sorry to have the argument on that head stated and enforced as it is in the volume under notice. Men are rarely impartial judges of that which concerns their immediate interests,—but all opinions should be heard. There is not much danger that the calmer public of this country will ever be induced to sanction a policy so savage and revolting.

Principles of the Anatomy and Physiology of the Vegetable Cell. By Hugo von Mohl, translated by Arthur Henfrey, F.R.S. Van Voorst.

This book is a sign of the growing tendency to study the complicated processes of life in their most elementary forms. It was not till the microscope had revealed the fact, that each organ of the animal and vegetable body is composed of cells, that any attention was paid to the study of cells as individual parts of the plant. Long after the cellular structure of plants had been seen, physiologists failed to appreciate the importance of their relations to the whole structure of the plant. It is to the genius of Schleiden that we owe the attention which

has lately been given to this department of vegetable physiology,—and also the rapid progress that has been made in animal physiology by the application of the same principles to the functions of animals as of plants. Schleiden was not right in all the views which he first enunciated with so much authority; and he has consequently raised up a host of opponents,—among the most distinguished of whom we may reckon the author of the present treatise. Fired with the feeling of the importance of his discoveries, Schleiden poured contempt on all that had gone before; and generalizing more hastily than the extent of his observations warranted, he fell into not a few errors. At first, there were few competent to the task of confirming or opposing the observations of the young Professor at Jena,—and he carried all his own way. Time, however, and good microscopes, afforded points for discussion:—and this work by Prof. Mohl is one of the most striking confirmations of the value of Schleiden's observations, as well as the best corrective of the errors into which he has fallen.

To those who wish to deal with the principles rather than the details of botanical science this volume will be found invaluable,—as it gives by far the best summary that we have seen of the functions of the vegetable cell. As there can be no vegetable organs and no vegetable life without the agency of cells,—it is clear that in order to study properly the structure and functions of plants we must study the structure and functions of their cells. Some plants consist of simple cells,—and their history is truly bound up with the single cell of which they consist. The great majority of plants consist of vast numbers of cells,—some performing one set of functions, some another. In order to analyze the functions which any congeries of cells perform—as in a leaf, a stamen, or a seed,—it is necessary first to examine the functions which they perform in common, when that which is individual and peculiar in them is much more clearly apprehended. Such has been the endeavour of Prof. Mohl in the present work. The anatomical condition of the cell, its physical properties, various forms and origin are first examined. The author then proceeds to speak of the cell in a state of activity,—and in its several conditions of an organ of nutrition, an organ of increase and an organ of motion. In passing over this ground, he has an opportunity afforded him of discussing problems the solution of which will be of the highest interest to the progress of physiology. The vegetable and animal cell, though resulting in forms which collectively in the animal and in the vegetable kingdoms are antagonistic,—have too many relations in both not to render of importance to the one any well-observed facts in the other. Hence all who are interested in the study of life will be glad to have in the English language so well digested a *résumé* as this of the views of a physiologist as distinguished as Hugo von Mohl.

The Water Lily on the Danube: being a brief Account of the Perils of a Pair-Oar during a Voyage from Lambeth to Pesth. By the Author of 'The Log of the Water Lily.' Illustrated by One of the Crew. Parker & Son.

This book is a worthy successor to 'The Log of the Water Lily,'—which recorded the successful voyage of a boat of the same name on the Rhine, the Neckar, and the Moselle. Like the early navigators, who became emboldened by their success, and ventured from their creeks and rivers into open seas,—our author, improving on his former feat, resolved on descending the Danube from Kitzingen to Pesth.

This, in company with a party of friends, he accomplished:—in a small pair-oar boat,—not, however, as the title of the book suggests, without sundry perils and adventures. The work—which professes to be a transcript of letters written during the voyage—bears no sign of the *lince labor*; the matter being just what is desirable,—conveying the emotions and adventures of the hour chronicled in all their original freshness.

Our boating readers will care to be told, that the Water Lily of this voyage—like the four-oar of the last—was constructed, of mahogany, by Messrs. Noulton & Wyld, of Lambeth; and judging by the numerous accidents that befell her in the shape of concussions and groundings, without injuring her, she did credit to her builders. She was transported by steam-boat to Kitzingen,—“that town with the thin-sounding name,” on the Main; and with the Union-Jack fluttering gaily from her bows, the voyage was there commenced by an arduous tug up the river to Bamberg,—a distance of one hundred miles. The party then proceeded along the noble canal to Forchheim,—a distance of one hundred and fifty miles. This canal is provided with one hundred locks; but the progress of the party was rendered easy in consequence of their having been furnished with a printed pass, for which they paid only five shillings. They halted at Nuremberg:—and at the less tourist-frequented town of Dietfurt, where they put up for the night.—

“The lock-keeper, who had been one of the Bavarian volunteers under King Otho in Greece, offered to carry our luggage to the best inn in the place, which he told us ‘was a very bad town, inhabited only by old peasants.’ It was certainly not a very imposing city, nor was the public to which our guide directed us particularly inviting. However, it was the best in the place; in which I believe no foreigner ever before set his foot. On the appearance of Boniface, a fat little man with winking eyes, and a skull-cap on his head, and who combined in his own dignified person the functions of landlord, waiter, cook, chambermaid, and boots, we inquired what we could have to eat? to which he laconically replied, ‘Nothing.’ However, we ultimately managed to procure some pancakes, bread, cheese, butter, cucumbers, and milk. Our beds were made up for us in the ‘Saal,’ which, in these out-of-the-way caravanseries, seems generally to be considered the chamber of honour. In the morning our plump little host paid us a visit in our room, for no ostensible purpose, unless it was to see how we got through the mysteries of the toilet. We asked him from what part of the world he thought we had come, he said, Nuremberg, which place he probably considered to be at the extreme limit of the civilized world. We told him that we were from Russia; to which he grinned acquiescence, as he most likely would have done, had we told him that we were from Patagonia, or the North Pole. Smith, happening to have a tooth-brush in his hand, shewed it to the little man, and asked him if he had ever seen such an instrument before, or knew its use; which soft impeachment he repudiated; and on learning that it was a newly invented instrument for coaxing corks out of bottles, he observed with the air of a connoisseur: ‘Sehr zweckmässig.’ Our bill at this remarkable establishment for dinners, beds, and breakfasts, amounted in all to the sum of one shilling and fivepence a head. We were here on a Sunday, and the costumes were most curious, those of the men for the most part similar to those at Gösswein; but the disguise of the ladies was very peculiar: they wore gowns very short in the waist, with the sleeves wadded out to an enormous size, making their shoulders about three feet across, and rendering it impossible for them to put their arms down to their sides; the boys had similar sleeves, enormous beaver hats, and knee-breeches, and were altogether the most extraordinary looking little beings it is possible to conceive.”

The Danube voyage commenced at Weltenburg,—twenty miles above Ratisbon; where

the river, as will be seen, is far from favourable to the safety of a fragile pair-oar.—

“The current of the Danube is very strong, and in some places, especially between Vilshofen and Aschach, and in the neighbourhood of the Strudel and Wirbel, very turbulent; and in the broader parts, when the wind is high, the waves rise to a considerable height, breaking into white horses at the top like the sea. However, we were gradually initiated into all these variations of the stream; though had we come upon them all at once, we might have hesitated before attempting them; we soon, however, found out the capabilities of our little craft, and that if we sat quietly in her, and pulled steadily, with careful steering, we could pass all the so-called dangers of the Danube with the most perfect security. The shallows among the islands were much more awkward than any of the places that the natives make such a fuss about, as we were several times obliged to jump out of our boat to save her bottom from being broken through when we touched ground. The waters of the Danube emit a peculiar hissing simmering noise, something like the sound heard when the ear is placed just over a glass of soda water recently poured out, but, of course, infinitely louder; this we first observed at Passau after the influx of the Inn, and we thought it was the sound of the wind among the leaves of the trees; but as it did not cease, even when there were no trees near, but, on the contrary, was heard more distinctly, we were convinced that it came from the water alone: this continued for a long way down the river, but we did not observe it below Presburg. The breadth of the stream varies exceedingly; we thought it to be narrowest at Weltenburg. Its broadest parts, where it is confined to a single stream, are at Deggendorf; just below Aschach (where it is nearly half-a-mile in breadth) before it enters the islands, and the reach immediately above Pesh, at which city, however, it is no broader than the Thames at Hungerford Bridge. Of course this does not apply to those parts where the river flows among the islands, as just below Presburg, for instance, where there is one island of itself twenty miles broad. As above mentioned, the grandest part of the Danube is immediately above Kelheim; and as the current was too strong for us to pull up against it, we took the steamer at nine a.m., and proceeded in her on our upward voyage. We soon found ourselves entirely surrounded by perpendicular walls of grey limestone, rising from the water's edge, without the vestige of a ledge between their bases and the stream, which whirls round the sharp turns among the cliffs in tumultuous eddies. So steep, indeed, are the walls of rocks, and so rapid the rush of water, that the only way that barges can make their way against it is by hooking on to iron rings, which are for that purpose driven, at intervals, into the cliffs. The scenery continued increasing, if possible, in grandeur, till we arrived at Weltenburg, where the rocks recede from the river on the right bank, leaving an open space on which the monastery of Weltenburg is built; we descended here and took our breakfast in the courtyard of the building: there are not above six or seven monks there now, the greater part of it being appropriated to farm purposes, and part is an hotel. After breakfast, we adjourned to the bank, and, to the great edification of the monks, proceeded to measure the river, by trying to throw stones across; this we at last succeeded in doing, though it was about the top of our work; we calculated, therefore, the distance to be about one hundred and twenty-five yards. We thought that this was the narrowest point of the river that we passed.”

It was the 9th of August when the friends embarked on the Danube:—and after a narrow escape of foundering against the picturesque old bridge at Ratisbon, they arrived at that quaint town. Here they found that the fame of the Water Lily had preceded them.—

“We never knew what heroes we were till we arrived at Ratisbon; dropping down the river in a pair-oar is certainly an easy way of gaining immortality, but here we found out that we had crossed the Channel and pulled up the Rhine and Main in our boat, that we intended to go down the Danube to the Black Sea in her, and then to return by the Mediterranean, the Straits of Gibraltar and the Bay of Biscay. It appeared that the newspapers had

been singing about us to this time for some time, but we had heard nothing of it before. We had hard work to contradict all these reports, and quite without effect, for we found that they went the round of the Continent, and were even published in the English papers. Rowing, or any kind of exercise or enterprise, which is not directly lucrative, is so utterly incomprehensible to the Teutonic mind, and the idea of any one's venturing on the Danube without a regular pilot or in anything less than a steamer, is considered so wildly rash (so many of the natives having never seen the sea), that I verily believe they did not think it the least unlikely (now that they saw us really on the Danube) that we had passed the Channel; nor that any boat or crew that would brave the terrific dangers of the Strudel and Wirbel, would hesitate for an instant in crossing the Bay of Biscay! and when they discovered that the marvellous boat was built of mahogany, and that none of the crew had ever set eyes on the Danube before, thousands flocked down to the bridge and banks of the river, to see us meet with the punishment due to our presumption, in the breakers below the bridge. But I fear that we disappointed them sadly. Having previously examined the spot, we found that the arches of the bridge nearest to the left bank were separated from the others by a dam of masonry, which runs obliquely up stream for some distance to a mill; to this breakwater we pulled, and hoisting our boat over it, launched her again in the calm water below.”

Those who have navigated the Danube will remember the tumultuous nature of its waters near Passau, and that they are by no means suited for a wherry-like skiff. Our author and his friends were of course prepared for a capsize; and seem to have been as much at home in as out of the water. But on this occasion, again, they carried their bark triumphantly through dangers which we know to have struck dismay into the hearts of Danube boatmen.—

“We were now approaching one of the great bays of the Danube boatmen, the rocky passage between Vilshofen and Passau. At Vilshofen, the people at Straubing and Deggendorf told us, ‘You possibly may arrive, but then you must go to ground.’ These consolations waxed still louder at this place. They told us the boldest Danube boatmen took in pilots here, and one man actually tried to get into the boat; but we were obdurate, being determined never to have a pilot, knowing the utter ignorance of the people as to the construction and capabilities of such a boat as ours; indeed, we never paid the slightest attention to any advice given us by the natives, and in many cases acted directly in opposition to it; for they generally thought that we could do what was utterly impossible, and could not do what was perfectly easy, and to this self-reliance we probably owe our safe arrival at Pesh. So on we went alone, and found that it was just what we expected, a most exceedingly dangerous place for a heavily laden boat, but by no means so for our little cockle-shell that only drew a few inches of water; rocks were scattered about the bed of the river in every direction, some above water and some below; the white breakers surrounded us on every side; we came rather unpleasantly near one, but with steady pulling, careful steering, and quick obedience to the word of command, we came safely through. We had one more thunder storm, but just before we arrived at Passau the sky cleared up, and the sun shone out brightly, gilding the white towers of the Cathedral which stood out in bold relief against the deep purple of the retiring thunder cloud. The people of Passau were exceedingly surprised to find that we had driven safely down the dangerous avenue that leads to their town: and the next morning the following paragraph edited the readers of the *Passauer Zeitung*:—‘The three young Britons, Messrs. Manfitt, Compresst and Tonsom, yesterday afternoon at four o'clock, arrived here, after they had passed the whole day in a storm, tempest and rain, and afterwards, totally wet through, landed here. They celebrate, according to rigorous English customs, to-day (the Sunday) in quiet and stillness, and will to-morrow or the day after set forth their from London begun adventurous expedition to Constantinople. Form and architecture of their boat are worthy of particular remark, when

one considers, that it is only built as an oar-yacht, and no sail can be spread out, although they must already have passed the Channel, and must hereafter traverse the Black Sea, when naturally they can only trust themselves to a coasting voyage!"

But these dangers were nothing, according to report, to those that awaited the voyagers below Grein; where the Strudel and Wirbel—names as terrible to the navigators of the Danube as Scylla and Charybdis were to the sailors of old—were said to suck into their vortex any unfortunate boat coming within their influence. Of late, however, the bed of the river has been so altered by skillful blasting, that the Strudel and Wirbel have lost much of their ancient terrors. When the Danube is swollen, the danger is very much lessened; and under these favourable circumstances the little Water Lily, with her gallant crew, shot the rapids so cleverly, that our author triumphantly says he should not in the least mind going down them in an outrigger. From our own experience of the Danube—we should decline accompanying him.

The remaining part of the voyage to Vienna and Pesth was easy work. At the former city the following amusing and extravagant account of the labours of the party appeared in the journals.—

"At last, they are come; namely, the three so much talked of young Englishmen, Messrs. M—, C—, and T—, who have undertaken the voyage from London to Constantinople in a boat of mahogany (a thin but strong West Indian wood); it is set in motion by two of the adventurous travellers, and guided by the third by means of a miniature rubber. The boat of which these undaunted sons of Albion avail themselves for their perilous journey is, at the most, twenty-five feet long, and something over three feet broad. It weighs not more than twenty-four pounds, and can therefore easily be carried by a single man. The entire adventurous voyage is undertaken for a bet of 3,000*l.*, which is to this effect: that the young gentlemen travel from London to Constantinople, across the Channel in their own boat. Up to this moment, they have kept their wager to the letter, and have on that account, during their voyage across the Channel—where their nutshell would have been decidedly rather unsafe—certainly remained in their little boat, but have comfortably placed this on board a common large sailing-vessel, and so crossed the Channel with a double keel under them. They bought their boat in London last year for 13*l.*, sent it to Cologne, and thence made the voyage of the Moselle, the Lahn, and the Neckar. It is much to be wished that our people would study the build of this English vessel, for our boats are in real circumstances of childhood. These celebrated travellers made their entry into the Danube Canal yesterday at half-past three, when they hoisted up the English flag—the world-known Union-Jack—and having cast anchor at the Schanzel, there made fast their boat; but it is not now to be distinguished by any flag; it is covered over with canvas, and only the crowds of curious people who swarm around point out the presence of this wonderful thing. The landing-place there is indeed at this moment unusually crowded; but it is not the proud three-masted ships which bring us the riches and choice productions of distant lands that attract the general attention; but, in a far higher degree, the unusually elegant and slim-built boat which these bold Englishmen have made use of for their voyage. They will proceed on their course to Constantinople to-morrow, or the day after, at the same time as the steamer, which took them on board at the passage of the Strudel and Wirbel, and other dangerous places."

After a halt of some days, the Water Lily resumed her voyage to Pesth:—at which city she arrived on the 3rd of September,—having been twenty-five days on the water. During this time the party rowed seven hundred miles:—being on the average twenty-eight miles per day. The stout little boat was sold as a model to the Director of a steam-boat company at Pesth for 12*l.*:—a sporting Count having previously expressed a wish to purchase her for

duck-shooting,—for which, as may be imagined, she was entirely unfitted.

Along with racy adventures in as well as out of the water, which are pleasantly related, this volume contains several graphic sketches of localities on and near the line of route. This line is illustrated by a very clear map,—and by drawings made by one of the crew. The volume combines instruction with considerable interest.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The List of the Queen's Scholars of St. Peter's College, Westminster, collected by Joseph Welch. A new edition. By an Old King's Scholar.—To all "Old Westminster" this will be a welcome boon. A University calendar is consulted with interest by men who have long ceased to be in statu pupillari, or even to reside. It is matter of curiosity to observe the instances in which university honours have been the harbingers of higher distinctions:—how the double first-class man ripened into a great statesman,—how the Senior Wrangler became an eminent judge, or still more eminent philosopher,—how the Chancellor's medallist obtained a bishopric, or rose to the highest rank in the world of letters,—and how the writer of a prize poem received the Laureateship, with the universal acclaim of his countrymen. Hence, a calendar, which to others might appear even less attractive than a library catalogue or a subscription list, is full of interest to a university man.—And yet, the information communicated with regard to the subsequent history of each alumnus of the *Alma Mater* is the scantiest possible,—merely including some of the works and titles by which he is best known to the world. What, then, must be the feelings with which an "Old Westminster" will receive a large volume like this, containing—not merely a complete list of all the principal officials connected with the venerable seat of learning where he was educated, and of all the scholars admitted on the foundation, including those afterwards elected to Oxford and Cambridge,—but also ample particulars respecting them, amounting often to a complete biography? In the case of names crowned with celebrity, as complete an account is here given as could be found in any biographical dictionary; and even the brief recital of the leading facts in the history of those less known to fame is not without its attractions. The grand excellence which distinguishes all the descriptions—from the most meagre to the most copious and interesting—is, the severe simplicity running through them. There is a total absence of vulgar exaggeration or party-feeling of any kind, and all is in good keeping. No persons of education will take up this book without being loth to lay it down.—The present edition is a great improvement on the previous ones in several respects. Its size is more convenient, having been changed from quarto to octavo,—much interesting matter has been added, from trustworthy sources,—and short notices have been given of many who, not having been admitted as scholars on the foundation, were omitted in former editions. A brief account of the origin and constitution of the school appears at the close of the preface. An appendix, containing various particulars possessing interest for all "Old Westminster," is to be found at the end,—with an excellent index for purposes of reference. A few blank leaves are left to be filled up with the names of those who may hereafter obtain the honour of admission to the foundation and election to the universities. From what we have seen of this work—which reflects high credit on the editor's industry and care,—we cannot help wishing that some one would undertake to perform a similar task for Oxford and Cambridge. If its execution were characterized by anything like the accuracy and completeness here visible, we feel certain that the labour required would not be without its reward.

Rainy Afternoons; or, Tales and Sketches, by the Howard Family. By Randall Ballantyne.—There is no saying to what extremities in search of entertainment a young family passing this most rainy of winters at Penzance, which is the most rainy of English places, might not be driven;—but we are not sure that any position of affairs

less melting would entice, persuade, or constrain any sensible children to drag through 'Rainy Afternoons,' with a belief that they were reading a real book.—"The Howard Family" are not so much boys and girls as small *Edinburgh* reviewers, who contribute articles on Natural History, Geography, &c.; their parents undertaking the Piety department,—and that admirable *Aunt Mary*, who has figured in every child's book till it is "high time she should sit down," the Foreign Manners. The best page of the volume is the last, which exhibits the Christmas tree with its presents for everybody; but the book, to speak seriously, is unnatural and pedantic in no common degree.

The Conceited Pig. With Six Illustrations. By Harrison Weir, engraved on wood.—We can imagine "the Howard Family" turning up their well-educated noses at this tale of a styte, a stable, a hen-roost, and a fox-hole. Less genteel and orderly young persons, however, will enjoy it heartily; and we are not too old to have read every word of it, with relish of the text and approval of Mr. Harrison Weir's merry illustrations. Is he qualifying himself to become the Grandville of England?

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Abbot's Principles and Practice of Linear Perspective, 8vo. 6s. 6d. Adams's (Rev. H. C.) Cherry-Stones, 3rd edit. 6s. 3s. 6d. Alice Montrose, by Maria J. McIntosh, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. Amy Herbert, by a Lady, 7th edit. 3s. 6d. Arnold's School Classics, Cicero, Selections from, Part 4, 2s. 6d. Arnold's School Classics, Euripides, Hippolytus, 12mo. 2s. 6d. Arnold's School Classics, Sophocles, Part 5, Antigone, 12mo. 4s. Autobiography of English Soldier in U. S. Army, 3 vols. 21s. 6d. Baird's (J. S.) Catalogue of Greek Verse, 8vo. 4s. 6d. Bonar's (A.) Development of Antichrist, 16s. 3s. 6d. Brunshaw's Shareholder's Guide, 1853, 12mo. 7s. 6d. Chevalier (M.) On the Production of Precious Metals, trans. 2s. 6d. Claverston, a Tale, by C. M. Charles, post 8vo. 10s. 6d. Cl. Frederick's (E. T.) Customs Guide, 1853, 8vo. 6s. 6d. Collins's (J. K.) Details of Gothic Architecture, Vol. 1, 21, 12s. 6d. Cooper's (T.) Purgatory of Suicide, 3rd edit. 6s. 7s. 6d. Dick's (Dr.) Christian Beneficence, 12mo. 2s. 6d. Drummond's (W. H.) Ancient Irish Minstrelsy, 8vo. 8s. 6d. Eary's (D. B.) Gold Colonies of Australia, new edit. 12mo. 12s. 6d. Faber's Revival of French Emancipation Anticipated, 6s. 8s. 6d. Frazer's (J. T.) Practical Treatise on Bassinet, 8vo. 4s. 6d. Gardiner's (W.) Music and Relations, trans. 8s. 6d. Gibson's (W.) Forest and Firsides Hours, sq. 2s. 6d. Gilbey's (C. G.) Art of Weaving, 2nd edit. 8s. 6d. Guizot's Fine Arts, their Nature and Relations, trans. 8s. 14s. Hallam's Europe during Middle Ages, 10th edit. 3 vols. 8vo. 20s. 6d. Hardy's (R. S.) Manual of Buddhism, 8vo. 12s. 6d. Harpur's Manual for Godfathers and Godmothers, 8vo. 3s. 6d. Hours with the Ladies, &c., by a Lady, 6s. 8s. 6d. Howell's Bookcase, Folio's Married Life, 12mo. 12s. 6d. Illustrated London News, Vol. 21, folio. 21s. 6d. Johnstone's (W. H.) M.A. Sunday and the Sabbath, 8vo. 1s. 6d. Jones's Eminent Characters of English Reformation Period, 7s. 6d. Landau's Ecclesiastical Dictionary, Vol. 2, 12mo. 10s. 6d. Lynd's (Mrs. H.) Mountain Pastor, 8th edit. 6s. 8s. 6d. Lynd's (Sir E. B.) Poetical Works, Vol. 2, 8s. 6d. 8s. 6d. MacCormick's Beauties of Modern Sacred Poetry, 8s. 6d. Major's Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, 4to. 4s. 6d. Melville's (Rev. H.) Lectures, Selections from, 8s. 6d. 8s. 6d. Morias, a Poem, by V. C. 8s. 6d. 8s. 6d. Murphy's Bible Atlas, Coloured outlines, sq. 1s. 6d. Napoleon the Third, by Guérinot, 8s. 6d. 8s. 6d. Notes and Queries, Vol. 6, sm. 4to. 10s. 6d. Ocean Flowers and their Teachings, 8vo. 21s. 6d. Parfleur Library, Darnley, by James, 12mo. 1s. 6d. 8s. 6d. Parfleur and Pandary, a Novel, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. Prentice's History of the Anti-Corn-Law League, Vol. 1, 7s. 6d. Scribble Book, with Illustrations, 6s. 8s. 6d. 8s. 6d. Sketches for Dreamers, by T. Gwynne, post 8vo. 10s. 6d. Sinclair's (C.) Priest and the Curate, 12mo. 1s. 6d. Slade's Plain Parochial Sermons, Vol. 2, 4th edit. 12mo. 5s. 6d. Spooner On the Trial by Jury, 8vo. 7s. 6d. 8s. 6d. Stuart's Six Lectures on Materia Medica, 8s. 6d. 8s. 6d. Stirling's (T. H.) The Nations, a Poem, 6s. 8s. 6d. Stirling's Cloister Life of Charles the Fifth, 2nd edit. 8s. 8s. 6d. Stuart's (Rev. M.) Commentary on the Romans, 8th edit. 7s. 6d. Tappan's Step from the New World to the Old, 2 vols. 12mo. 12s. 6d. Telegraphic Sign that the End is near, 12mo. 5s. 6d. Universal History on Scriptural Principles, 6 vols. 8s. 8s. 6d. Vallet's (E. B.) Synoptic Table of French Genders, 8s. 8s. 6d. Vaughan's (Dr.) Sermons, 2nd edit. 8s. 12s. 6d. 8s. 6d. Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England, Part 2, 4s. Walton's Treatise on Operative Ophthalmic Surgery, 8s. 12s. 6d.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE December number of the *Quarterly Review* contains an article on the British Museum, in which the various questions that have recently been exercising men's minds and pens in relation to that institution are treated with various emphasis and a graduated ratiocination. The one question of room, and the means of providing it, is reasoned on with that seriousness and endeavour at argument which men bring to any matter in which they have a crotchet of their own;—the other questions are all dismissed with the high and supercilious air with which certain controversialists regard the crotchets of others. In regard to these, the Reviewer lifts himself to a height of authority from which he nods them and their authors down at his good pleasure. Bold and dashing assertion takes the place of argument on the Reviewer's own part,—and the arguments of his opponents he at once invalidates by charging them all with gross ignorance or improper motives.

The large body of earnest and disinterested men who have been interpreting the popular feeling and maintaining the popular cause for years are put *hors de combat* by their summary and satisfactory classification into "professional critics and literary and artistic grumblers." The Reviewer finds stigma a weapon coming readier to his hand than argument. They who complain of a *Museum Headache* afford him the opportunity of firing his one squib:—he shrewdly suspects that "they belong to that unlucky class whose brains are rather too weak for their studies."—It is assumed once for all that the present condition and composition of the British Museum are, in all respects save that in which they will be affected by the Reviewer's pet project, the most perfect that can be imagined,—and that the administration of the Museum is the very model of a governing body.—Sometimes the Reviewer ingeniously affects to have his opponent on his side, in the character of a convert,—but traitorously deals him a side wound even while they are walking together in this supposed new alliance. It is assumed, for instance, that the idea of a general printed catalogue for current use is now given up on all sides as a *physical impossibility*—the italics are the Reviewer's own, to mark the universally received dogma; and while it is triumphantly announced that we are to hear no more of it,—they whose conversion is claimed are reminded that they never put forward the notion at all but "as a covert mode of personal censure on the officers of the Library department."

Reviewers and others who deal in a logic like this, are apt to dispense with that more ordinary logic which addresses itself to the reasoning faculties of their hearers. Such men are above the schools. Their logic is of an aristocratic kind, which stands on its privilege,—or, by way of diversion, mounts its royally-appointed hobbies, and takes occasional rides round little circles which bring it always back again to the same point, safe under the shelter of the prerogative. The article in the *Quarterly* has many such examples of riding in the ring.—For instance, in a discussion as to the best and most appropriate architectural form which can be given to "so complicated and diversified an object as a Museum," the argument finally loses itself in an assumption, which makes for the case of the Building as it stands. The axiom which asserts the impossibility of faultlessness is said to be peculiarly applicable "to that complicated class of architectural cases in which old and established rules of external form, proportion, and decoration are to be combined and reconciled with the exigencies of a species of internal accommodation unknown to the creators of the classic styles." Now, this is a begging of the question,—and assumes as to be done exactly that which is *not* to be done. The creators of the classic styles created out of their own materials and for their own objects—not ours;—and we did hope that, after the great proclamation of the Palace of Glass, it was the accepted canon that, with us, in future, the purpose contemplated, and the available materials at hand which the Greek had not, were to control the "form, proportion and decoration" of our buildings, internal and external.—Then, in a declaration against the doctrine of dispersion which we and others have urged again and again—not with reference to the limited spaces of the present building merely, but on its own scientific ground—the principle is for a moment admitted at the head of page 163, as if for the express purpose of setting up a self-contradiction, and giving a character of inconsistency to the general denial to which the Reviewer returns.—Lower down, we have an argument against the possibility of homogeneity, and the necessity—or the propriety—of miscellaneousness of character in the Museum—because the Museum is "a collection into one edifice of the most miscellaneous, and what some think the most incongruous, objects (!)"—This is the shortest return on itself of an argument which we have met with in this article, or remember to have met with anywhere:—and we will, therefore, only add a single example of the Reviewer's arguments when he goes straight forward. He contends against the dispersion of the varied contents of the Museum in the interest of the "sight-seeing" public,—on

the ground that the collection forms a great "holiday-school" of all the Arts to which they may resort to learn "the A B C of art, form, proportion, &c." The general public, according to the Reviewer, has no business beyond the alphabet:—it has no need of *syntax*.

The question of the Library Catalogue is mooted early in the article;—and here the Reviewer gets hold of a reasonable argument,—but forgets to mark it with its owner's name. We must quote the passage.—

"The only really practicable proposition suggested in the Report for a printed catalogue would be of some class or period which could be considered as *completed and closed*—such as the collection of works connected with the Great Rebellion, or of the books possessed by the Museum printed in the fifteenth century; but of these the first would be of little general use, and hardly worth the cost; and the second, if now executed, would, we hope, very soon become imperfect. The only mode of carrying out this latter idea that could be considered as complete, should embrace not what any single library may happen to possess at the moment, but all the great libraries of Europe should be invited to contribute to a general catalogue of all books known to have been printed prior to 1501; and to each title might be affixed an initial to designate in what libraries the book might be found,—as 'M. L.' for Museum, London; 'B. O.' Bodleian, Oxford; 'N. P.' National, Paris; 'I. P.' Institute, Paris, &c. So that, whenever any of these libraries became possessed of a work they had not before, the addition, by a hand-stamp, of this distinguishing mark would keep each catalogue and (by easy intercommunications) all the catalogues complete; and even individuals who might purchase a catalogue could keep their own complete by reference to that of the nearest public library. This would be a valuable addition to the literature of the world."

Surely, this is something like "thunder" of our own,—though with a difference. The plan has certainly come out of our own columns,—though it has undergone the process which Sheridan charges against gypsies and some others. The Reviewer would have a *complete European catalogue*:—well, so would we, and we asked for it some years ago. But then, the Reviewer again asserts his principle only for the sake of limiting it,—and his logic is once more very much at fault. The *Quarterly* confines its demand to a catalogue of books printed in the fifteenth century. Why? It seems to us that the argument which is good for that, is good for more,—and that the rejection of the more impeaches the whole argument. But the writer has a reason,—or, what he calls one. "The fifteenth century," says the Reviewer, "comprehends a period which would be considered as *completed and closed*." Answering, in the first place, that, for the purposes of a general catalogue of books no period can be considered as completed and closed,—we answer further that in the sense intended by him all periods may—the sixteenth, the seventeenth, or the eighteenth century, as well as the fifteenth. There may be more or fewer books of one period than of another—more or fewer in the National Library; but these are circumstances which in no way affect the argument. Then, the writer says, it would be idle to print a catalogue of the books of the fifteenth century which any single library may happen to possess at a particular moment, because it "would very soon become imperfect." What of force there is in this argument against printing a catalogue of the books of the fifteenth century which may chance to be in the National Library at this or any other time, is of equal force when applied to books printed in all other centuries;—and it follows logically, that to print a catalogue at all of books which at a particular time a nation or nations may "happen to possess," is a folly. To this conclusion comes the writer in the *Quarterly*;—and to this conclusion we must believe that the Trustees of the Museum have also come,—for now that our collection is doubled in numbers,—now that we especially want a clear, compact, condensed catalogue—they have ceased to print, and substituted *some hundreds of folio MSS.*

If this be the inevitable consequence of the progressive increase of our National Library, the public must, of course, in suffering and in sorrow, submit. But fortunately, the project which the *Quarterly* has produced at second hand, and limited to its pet fifteenth century catalogue, might, by being restored to the old dimensions in which the Reviewer found it in our columns, give us the catalogue, after all, that we want. He proposes—as we did before him—to call in the assist-

ance of other nations, who are to contribute to a *general catalogue of all books known to have been printed prior to 1501*. But as we think that what is true and practicable in respect to a catalogue of books printed in the fifteenth century, is equally true and practicable in respect to books printed in any and every other century,—we reclaim our instalment out of the Reviewer's hands, and stick to our old conclusion for "a Universal Catalogue of all books known to have been printed," without limitation as to time or space. Let each nation, we repeat, prepare a catalogue of all works printed under their several sovereignties,—print it with moveable stereotypes,—and interchange the stereotypes. The saving of time, cost, and labour to all would be immense. But we need not enter again into the details of a subject already so fully discussed by us, and well known to our readers. Those who are curious and uninformed may refer to our columns for the year 1850, [No. 1176]. We rejoice to know, that our project is growing into favour,—because we have heard opinions expressed as to its practicability from men whose voices ought to be potential. We hope, that the Trustees of the National Library will, at least, examine its own officers and other competent persons as to the feasibility of the scheme.

The article in the *Quarterly* concludes with a particular plan of the Reviewer's own for obtaining additional space by an appropriation of the Central Court, which—not accepting it for the purpose for which he produces it, as a substitute for dispersion of the heterogeneous contents of the Museum—we may yet say, is well deserving of attention.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK.

THOUGH this is not the season of the year nor the weather to tempt visitors to these Gardens,—as a period of summaries, it is not an unapt time to record some of the improvements that have been lately made, and give a programme of the novelties in store for those who are soon again to visit this attractive collection of animals.

Since we last reported progress, the Society has extended its available space by laying out a large piece of ground formerly occupied by the paddocks of some Ruminantia, on the south-west side of the Gardens. Here we have now a series of ponds and inclosures in which a large number of animals are seen to much greater perfection than before. The herd of Reindeer are here,—with the Alpaca, Llama, and their kindred families. Some of the Kangaroos, with species of Ruminantia, are also kept in these inclosures. The Storks and Cranes, with the other large grallatorial birds, have a pond to themselves:—affording the visitor an opportunity for watching their natural habits. The new Aviary is now completed; and here may still be seen the Bower-bird, the last of the three sent from Sydney,—paying its solitary visits to the bower which its companions assisted it to build. With it, now, for the sake of company, are some beautiful specimens of Toucan, from South America. Though accustomed to tropical heats, they seem to bear well the cold of our climate; for, though the wind whistles through the cage in which they are kept, they look exceedingly healthy. From these experiments, we may hope that some of the brilliant inhabitants of the forests of America and Australia will yet be induced to breed and become acclimated in this country.—The Mandarin Ducks, which are contained in the same Aviary, have increased in number,—and promise to make these beautiful birds comparatively common amongst us.

No alterations have been made in the dens of the Carnivora,—but seldom, we think, has the collection looked in better health and order than just now. The young Jaguars—which when brought to the Gardens were mere kittens—have become, we should think, the finest specimens of the animal ever exhibited in Europe. Their sleek skins and playful habits indicate that in nowise do they feel the loss of their freedom. The young Leopards—whose antics during the last summer all who visited the Gardens will recollect—are fast attaining to maturity, and are in admirable condition. The collection of Bears is very extensive.

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The visitor may now study the following species:—the Polar bear,—the Brown bear,—the Black bear,—the Grizzly bear,—the Cinnamon bear,—the Imbelline bear,—the Syrian bear,—the Sloth bear,—and the Malayan Sun-bear. Never was so large a variety of living bears accumulated in the world before.

The Eagle aviaries are completed; and those who are interested in these imperial birds have a better opportunity than ever before of studying them. How much an increase of accommodation influences the health even of birds may be seen by the improved appearance of these grand specimens. Although, of course, not able to mount into the sky and descend upon their prey from an altitude of hundreds of feet,—they can now, at least, expand their wings and pounce upon their food from a height of some sixteen or eighteen feet.

One of the most novel and recent additions to the animals in those Gardens is, the Choitopotamus. The name would lead many to suppose that a rival to the Hippopotamus had appeared; but, although belonging to the same family of the Pachydermata, the Choitopotamus is no match in size or in appearance for the river-horse of Egypt. He is, as his name implies, a river pig,—not, however, with any extraordinary aquatic tendencies. He has been brought from the banks of the Senegambia; amongst the swamps of whose borders, and those of the other rivers of Western Africa, he delights to dwell. His appearance is not unlike that of a common pig. He has larger legs, and is more squarely built. The most striking feature of the animal is the colour of its hair,—which if on a human being we should call sandy. It is long, and less coarse than that of the common pig. The ears are very long and black. The face is less rugged and picturesquely than that of the wart hogs,—but presents decidedly more character than those of our swine. Of the hog tribe, this is decidedly the cleanest and most gentlemanly specimen. It is the prince of pigs.

The death of the Urran Utan seems to have conveyed a warning as to the manner of treating the higher forms of monkeys. A pair of Chimpanzees, male and female, have here appropriated to them an apartment consistent with their near approach to humanity. This room is furnished with two chairs, two beds, and a tree; and if we may judge from the appearance of these animals now, as compared with what it was when they first arrived, we should say that their treatment agrees with them. These creatures—which excite little less than disgust by their apparent caricature of humanity—are interesting on account of the contrast of their habits to those of the lower forms of the same family, and of the approximation of their structure to the form of man.

Amongst the Reptiles, the most notable facts are,—the arrival of a young Alligator—the healthy growth of the small Crocodiles—and the removal of the Pythons and the Boas to a larger case. Never, perhaps, have these gigantic creatures been seen to greater perfection in Europe than in their present magnificent abode. At the bottom of the case is a tank of water, in which they may indulge their propensity to bathe; and long branches enable them to twine their long bodies in all directions. One of the snakes, the *Python Sclæ*—an inhabitant of Western Africa—is said to weigh upwards of a hundredweight.—While speaking of the reptiles, we must not forget to mention the addition of several specimens of Turtles and Tortoises to the collection.

Of the new arrangements, however,—that for which we anticipate the largest amount of popularity during the summer is, the Fish-house. This is an elegant structure in the centre of the South Garden,—built in the style of a conservatory for plants. At each end of this building are tanks,—and on the other sides are glass cases for the purpose of containing fish. This is quite a new experiment,—but one which we ourselves have often suggested. It is true, the Society has not got the whale which we look to as the crowning triumph of the gardens;—but here is the commencement of the line leading in that direction. The fish properly so called occupying at present the cases and tanks are, British fresh-water fish.

But even so far—what a treat for the naturalist! Who that has passed a stream, knowing that its waters are thronged with life, has not longed to have the power of watching the movements of its swift and timid inhabitants! In this fish-house we see at a glance what days of watching elsewhere could not afford. The ferocious pike has here become as docile as a puppy; the perch—always invisible amongst the deep holes of rivers and lakes—here yields up the secret of his haunts. We anticipate much interesting information about the economy of fishes from the facilities afforded for observation by these cases. But why should we not have sea fishes?—These are to come. Something of a commencement has been made. Several species of Actinia, or Sea Anemones, are here to be seen expanding their beautifully coloured arms amid the fronds of olive green and bright red seaweeds:—and they are but the first-fruits of what we may expect. Ere long, every inhabitant of London will be able to see what up to the present time has been seen only by the adventurous and sea-tossed dredger, who, casting his net to the bottom of the ocean, has beheld its numerous inhabitants in the freshness of life. The Sea Anemones are to be followed by all the other forms of Zoophytes,—with Jellyfishes and Starfishes, the delicate Nudibranchiate Mollusca, rare forms of shell-fishes, and the various species of Crustacea.—A new world of animal life will be drawn from the depths of the ocean for the amusement and instruction of the present generation.

For all these improvements and prospects the public ought to be thankful to the Council of the Zoological Society and their secretary, Mr. Mitchell;—and they must be thankful to the public for its active and liberal patronage. Should the public and the managers of the Gardens continue on such friendly terms, we expect further improvements to be early made.—We have often suggested that lectures should be given in these Gardens. The Council could hardly provide a more attractive animal than a good popular lecturer to discourse on such themes as their collection offers. They will have to introduce this feature into their scheme one day,—and they had better begin at once. The house recently vacated by the removal of Mr. Gould's wonderful collection of humming birds could be easily fitted up as a lecture room,—and could be put to no better purpose.

As to what more must be done,—we would again plead for the pigs, the parrots, the monkeys, and the small Carnivora. The pigs are still kept in coarse styes, not so good nor so comfortable as the common porker gets in most of the farm-yards of this country. Animals thus treated are not seen to advantage,—and are likely to excite disgust rather than admiration. The parrot house and the monkey house are both badly constructed buildings for their purpose,—and we are convinced that they are too small for the numbers of their inhabitants. We know not if these creatures suffer from disease; but in a public collection no room should be so crowded as to render it unpleasant, if not unbearable, to visitors. As for the small Carnivora and Rodentia,—they are huddled together in a small room, in cages and boxes which look very like the accommodation that a bird-seller in a small London Street is constrained to give to his living wares for want of more room in his house. In this department there are some very interesting animals; but how few persons who visit the Gardens venture into the "condemned cell" in which these poor little creatures are confined. Perhaps letting visitors see some of the old creatures better would answer as well almost as the procuring of new animals.

Before concluding, we should mention that Mr. Mitchell, the indefatigable Secretary of the Society, has written a popular Guide to the Gardens,—which contains a large amount of useful and interesting information. It is embellished with several woodcuts.—We are promised, besides, a list of all the animals which have been received and have existed in the Gardens during the last five years,—together with a more elaborate account of them than that given in the Guide. This will be published as a separate work,—and illustrated by the accurate hand of Mr. Wolf.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

The Australian papers bring sad intelligence of the long-lost Dr. Leichardt. The *Moreton Bay Courier* says, "We learn, with deep regret, that the reports of the melancholy death of Dr. Leichardt and his companions have proved but too well founded. A correspondent at Drayton informs us that Mr. Hely's party had returned from the search, bringing with them bones, watch-key, &c., belonging to the missing party. Mr. Hely had gone on towards Sydney by the most direct route from Surat, for the purpose of making his report; and we are thus left for the present without further information concerning this melancholy event."—The report here spoken of as containing the full particulars has since made its appearance. The *Adelaide Observer* writes:—"Mr. Hely's official report is before us. It is a voluminous but able document; but all we can do at present is, to state that the details furnish a mournful confirmation of former distressing (though unauthenticated) intelligence." These melancholy tidings will awaken many emotions: for the whole story of the enterprise in which it is now feared that the adventurous explorer has sacrificed his life in the interests of science reads like a chapter in romance. The way in which he nursed his zeal for Australian discovery,—his industry, promptitude, and success,—the care with which his journeys were prepared,—his return over three hundred miles of ground to the nearest frontier station to report the wonderful fertility and beauty of the countries which he had found—return, he said, prompted by the fear that there might be none from the greater journey which he contemplated, and that thus his discoveries up to that point might be lost,—his leave-taking with this consciousness in his mind,—and his final disappearance into the wilderness out of which he was never to emerge,—all these things tend to invest his memory with the interest that ever clings to a devotion so exalted. Men like Dr. Leichardt are the true heroes of a young country—and his name should be remembered on that vast Continent at the antipodes with affectionate gratitude.

The obituary of the week contains the name of the Rev. Edmund Rice, D.D., Head Master of Christ's Hospital. The deceased died by his own act, in a moment of mental derangement, apparently caused by fever.—The foreign obituary contains the name of M. Baudry, the eminent foreign bookseller and publisher of Paris.

For the sake of warning to authors and publishers in the matter of registration, it may be as well that we should refer to the judgment which was given last week, by Vice Chancellor Kindersley in the case of Murray v. Bogue. The hearing occupied five days during the last term,—the action charging Mr. Bogue with pirating portions of a guide book published by Mr. Murray under the title of 'Handbook of Switzerland.' The case went off, not on the merits, but on the said question of registration. Mr. Murray, it appeared, had entered the first edition (1838) only at Stationers' Hall; and the Vice Chancellor ruled that the neglect to register the subsequent editions of the book had left the new matter incorporated, or substituted, from time to time, without right of protection. This is an important rule:—obviously affecting all guide books, almanacs, encyclopedias, books of science generally,—and indeed, every reprint or new edition of a book in which there may be new matter.—We are informed that Mr. Murray has determined on trying the cause anew in the Queen's Bench,—where he can examine witnesses on the subject of the supposed infringement. In cases of minute and well-concealed piracy, the evidence of authors used to compilation is especially important.

A Correspondent, who reserves his name, writes to us in reference to an incidental remark on Rugby School made in our columns a fortnight since. When noticing the proved abuses of many of our public schools, particularly of Eton and its university complement, King's College, Cambridge, we pointed to Rugby as a minor case in which the idea of the founder—that of giving a good education to the poor youth of his native place—had been abandoned. Our correspondent objects to

this "condemnation of such a school." Our condemnation was general, not specific; but so far as it applied to Rugby, it is more than sustained by notorious facts. Our correspondent tells us, that the son of any man who has lived three years within the limits "is entitled to his education on the foundation;"—which is certainly true. The title was not the thing questioned. We referred to the practice—which in these scholastic foundations is not always found to be in accordance with abstract right. Our correspondent makes it a merit in the school that it does not absolutely ignore and set aside worthy Lawrence Sheriff's ideas: for, he says he has known mechanics to claim and receive their right. This brings us back to the point of our remark. Rugby Grammar School was founded for the purpose of affording a good education to the poor youth of the town and neighbourhood. Its revenue is believed to be about, or above, 5,000*l.* a year. The whole parish contains about 3,000 inhabitants, and the surrounding district is not densely peopled. So that, if the idea of Lawrence Sheriff were strictly carried into effect, the revenues of Rugby would perhaps be found sufficient for the sound training of all the poorer population within the prescribed limits:—and Rugby might be a great popular school, instead of being, as it now is, an aristocratic place of education.

The historian of the literature of the nineteenth century will not have occasion to lament the smallness, either in value or perhaps in extent, of his materials. Already we have had Lives of Byron, Scott, Southey, Wordsworth, Campbell, Cary, Jeffrey, &c. Lord John Russell is giving us the Memoir and Diaries of Moore; and one of the publications of the present year, though as yet not publicly announced, will be a Life (though a brief one) of William Lisle Bowles, containing his early correspondence with Coleridge. Both Southey and Coleridge, it will be remembered, were constant in the acknowledgment of the debt of obligation which their early verse was under to the muse of Bowles. The Life of the Vicar of Bremhill, though not a stirring one, was far from devoid of interest, and in good hands will doubtless form a pleasing picture of pastoral and poetic life.

Criticism has perhaps been of some service to Lord John Russell,—for the publication of Mr. Fox's Memoirs, advertised by Mr. Bentley to be ready before now, has, we observe, been postponed till Easter. In the interval his Lordship may be enabled to do for Mr. Fox what, so far at least, he has omitted to effect for his friend Mr. Moore.

It is not often that the Court Circular is found to contain paragraphs of moment to literary men,—but this week the newsmen of the Court has had to record the fact, that a deputation of the Trustees of the British Museum, consisting of Lord Mahon, Mr. Hallam, Mr. Macaulay, and others, attended by Sir Henry Ellis, waited on Lord Aberdeen and the Chancellor of the Exchequer—the two dignitaries intrusted with the purse-strings of the British people. We are glad to see such names of mark in our literature among the active Trustees:—as their recommendation will doubtless have—as it should have—greater weight with the Prime Minister and his Chancellor than applications of the same nature from gartered knights and blue-ribboned earls.—The interview, it is said, had reference to the growing importance of our National Library, and the absolute necessity of doing something early and liberally to make it useful to the public.

In the case of Constant Derra de Meroda against Messrs. George Dawson, Tindale, and other enlightened and hospitable gentlemen of Birmingham, on whose information the plaintiff was, in company with the lady known as the Baroness Von Beck, dragged to the prison which destroyed the life of the latter, on the unfounded charge of obtaining money under false pretences,—Lord Campbell has this week made absolute the rule which appealed against the decision—reluctantly come to, as our readers know—of Baron Alderson,—and returned the case to the inferior Court, for the opinion of a jury.—Lord Beaumont's motion in the House of Lords—where we have already had a pretty strong and universal expression of opinion—is, of course, arrested by the necessity of

awaiting the issue of this other form of appeal to the country.

The beautiful metal gates designed and cast by the Coalbrook Dale Company for the Great Exhibition of 1851—through which so many millions passed as they entered from the south transept—have just been erected as a new entrance from the extreme west end of Rotten Row into Kensington Gardens. They nearly front Gore House,—and command the new Broad Walk so prettily completed by the spire of the Gothic church in Hyde Park Gardens. Whether we look on these gates as choice examples of design and casting, or as a memorial of the Great Exhibition, they are peculiarly important. They will long outlive the three bare and lofty elms that still stand as if lamenting the glass covering which the ingenuity of man had thrown between them and the sky. A wintry storm may tear the elms up by their roots, in less than a week from the period when we are writing,—but the gates will stand the surliest wind that has blown in England since the great storm of 1703, and will be looked upon where they are with renewed interest by millions—unless some second George the Fourth shall carry them to Windsor,—some Napoleon the Fourth to Paris,—or some second Lord Ellenborough to the sunburnt scenery of Somnauth.

Mr. Leone Levi is, we see, about to deliver a course of eight lectures on Commercial Law at King's College.—The first lecture is to be gratuitous,—and open to any gentleman presenting his card.

We have received from Col. Sabine a translated copy of a circular which has recently been issued to the Directors of Meteorological Observatories in the Austrian dominions, by M. Kreil, the General Superintendent of those establishments. "It may, perhaps," says Col. Sabine, "be interesting to your readers to learn this additional instance of the readiness which is shown on the Continent to participate in carrying out scientific inquiries suggested from this country. No doubt, the practical advantages in this particular inquiry are likely to be much greater to England than to Austria,—which may account for the suggestion coming from us; but considerations of this kind appear to have no influence on the disposition to co-operate in scientific inquiries interesting to all."—The circular is as follows.—

Circular from the Imperial Central Establishment for Meteorology and Terrestrial Magnetism at Vienna.

The English Government has given directions to the stations of Meteorological Observations under it to give greater attention than has yet been done to the phenomena of Storms; which, besides their scientific interest, are exceedingly important on many practical accounts,—and especially in navigation. It is desired to notice, with as much exactness as the means at hand shall permit, the time of commencement, the direction, and the force of every wind of more than usual strength; its character, whether uniform or in gusts, its duration, the quarter from whence it began to blow, all subsequent changes of strength and direction, and their times of occurrence, the time of termination of the gale, and its direction when it ceases. The barometer, thermometer, and hyrometer are to be observed in the usual manner several times during the continuance of the storm. Rain, lightning, or other accompanying phenomena to be also noted. The English Government has invited the Austrian Government to have these observations made at its stations also, and to communicate the results. The gentlemen observers are, therefore, requested to follow the march of these phenomena in the manner proposed, to enter their observations in their respective registers, and to add moreover notices of the drift of the clouds, with any changes occurring therein during the course of the storm.

The Rev. Charles O. Goodford, one of the Assistant Masters of Eton, has been elected to the office of Head Master in the room of Dr. Hawtreay, reised to the dignity of Provost.

The Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg have elected the Earl of Rosse, President of the Royal Society of London, an honorary member:—in consideration, as it is stated, of his high scientific acquirements, and of the important services which he has rendered to astronomy.

The Congress of Delegates from the learned Societies of the French departments commenced their annual session on Wednesday last. The congress sits in Paris for ten days.—In the same capital, a chair of the French Language and Literature of the Middle Ages has been instituted in the Collège de France. M. Paulin Paris is appointed to the new professorship.

Among the recent arrests in Paris, is that of M. Alphonse Karr, the well-known novelist. His offence is,—having written in the *Gazette* these words:—"Balinguy est un coq impuissant." Balinguy is said to be one of the nicknames of Louis Napoleon.—The police of Paris seem determined to appropriate to the Emperor every particle of abuse on which they can manage to lay their hands. A workman was lately overheard swearing as he walked along the street,—and he was instantly arrested on the charge that he must be abusing the chief of the State.—Louis Napoleon is like worthy Master Scrub; if he sees people laughing, he concludes, as a matter of course, that they are laughing at him. The inference is irresistibly ludicrous:—it is "for a reason that he has." There never was a keener satire launched against a man than this one self-inflicted. Of all the laughter left to France Napoleon guesses shrewdly who must be the subject.

By a long exculpatory letter from M. Chauvel, printed in the *Indépendance Belge*, on the subject of the estate given to M. De Lamartine by the Sultan, we learn that the Turkish minister has repurchased the concession from the French poet for an annuity of 30,000 piastres (about 750*l.*) to be duly paid for twenty-three years.

At the recent annual public Session of the Russian Imperial Geographical Society, held in St. Petersburg, it was stated, that the great scientific Expedition about to be sent by that body into Eastern Siberia and Kamchatka was on the immediate eve of setting out. The Expedition comprises twelve young men who have been trained by the Society expressly to the duty of taking astronomical, magnetical, and meteorological observations. It was further stated, that another Expedition would be despatched to examine the condition of the Fisheries in the Caspian Sea,—and a third, to explore in a geological point of view several regions of European and Asiatic Russia.

Dr. Wells has memorialized the Senate at Washington for compensation for his father's alleged discovery of chloroform. After a short discussion, as to the several merits of Dr. Wells and Dr. Morton in the adaptation of this beneficial agent to practical purposes, the memorial was ordered to be laid on the table.

Prof. Gervinus's new book is producing an extraordinary stir in official Germany. Great pains are taken by the Heidelberg police to find out every purchaser of the volume. It has been seized in Munich and elsewhere:—and, as we stated last week, the Professor is cited before the legal tribunals. The volume itself has not reached our hands,—but the German papers give some account of it. Prof. Gervinus, following in the wake of ideas proposed by Vico, Montesquieu, Herder, Hegel, Michelet, and Auguste Comte in succession, believes that he has discovered the laws by which the development of nations—the growth of the world—is governed,—and these laws he has attempted to explain in the incriminated 'Introduction to the History of the Nineteenth Century.' The book is said to be very abstract, technical and scientific,—all of which is natural with a German professor dealing with the abstruse principles of historical philosophy. It was, therefore, not cast in a popular mould, or likely to be much read, except by men of thought and speculation. With these classes, however, Gervinus is a great authority,—and his influence is particularly felt in the universities. The sting lies in the nature of the law which he thinks he has discovered:—viz., the inevitable tendency of civilized nations towards self-government,—towards democracy, in fact. This idea is certainly far from novel,—and the excitement got up about it only shows once more how unsound is the relation in which intellectual Germany stands at this period to the several armed powers of the country.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—Three Exhibitions daily.—The Diorama illustrating the WELLINGTON CAMPAIGNS, with the additional Pictures—WALMER CASTLE, the DUKES CHAMBER, LYING IN STATE, FUNERAL PROCESSION, and INTERIOR OF ST. PAUL'S, with Vocal and Instrumental Music, is now exhibiting daily during the Holidays, at Twelve, Three and Eight o'clock.—Admission, 1*s.* 6*d.*, and 3*d.* ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF AUSTRALIA.—This NEW MOVING PANORAMA, Painted from Sketches made upon the spot, by J. S. PARRY, Member of the New Society of Painters in Water Colours, is EXHIBITED daily at 309, Regent Street, next the Polytechnic. Among the principal Scenes are:—Plymouth Sound—Melbourne—Geelong—The Road to the Diggonias—Mount Alexander—Sydney—The Blue Mountains—Summerhill Creek—Opbir—Encampment of Gold Diggers by Moonlight—Admission, 1s.; Central Seats, 2s.; Gallery, 6d. At 12, 3, and 5 during the Christmas Holidays.—The Descriptive Lecture is given by Mr. Prout, who resided many years in the Colonies, at 3 and 5.

LAST TWO WEEKS.—BOLLETT'S GREAT DIORAMA OF JERUSALEM and the HOLY LAND. Painted under the direction of Mr. W. Beverly, with grand Sacred Vocal Music conducted by Mr. J. H. Faily, daily at Three and Eight o'clock.

—Admission, 1s., 2s., and 3s. 6d.
ST. GEORGE'S GALLERY, HYDE PARK CORNER.

PATRON—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—NEW EXHIBITION.—AN OPTICAL and MUSICAL ILLUSTRATION OF SHAKESPEARE'S "MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM," with an ENTIRE CHANGE of MUSIC, introducing the ORIGINAL MUSIC, by Sir Henry Bishop, Morning and Evening.—LECTURES, by J. H. Pepper, Esq., on the ENDLESS AMUSEMENTS OF CHEMISTRY, adapted to a Juvenile Audience.—By Dr. Macpherson, on the PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENTIFIC RECREATION.—By Mr. Crane, on BALLOONING.—DISSOLVING VIEWS, including Day and Night Views of WALKER CASTLE, WALKER CHURCH, &c. &c.—Admission, 1s.; Schools, and Children under ten years of age, Half-price.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mrs. British Architects, 8.
- Entomological, 8.—Anniversary.
- Geographical, 8.—An Optical Agent of the Nile to the Second Degree, by Mr. Rollet.—Trajet across Africa by a Moorish Caravan from Zanzibar to Angola, with Remarks on the same, by Mr. W. P. Cooley.—An Account of Two Expeditions made into Central Africa by the Furuz, by Dr. Barth.
- London Institution, 4.—Whale Fishery.
- Royal Institution, 4.—On Organic Chemistry, by Dr. A. W. Hofmann.
- Tues. Zoological, 8.—Scientific.
- British Meteorological, 7.
- Institution of Civil Engineers, 8.—On the Construction of Fire-Proof Buildings, by Mr. J. Barrett.
- Royal Institution, 3.—On Animal Physiology, by T. W. Jones, Esq.
- Wed. Microscopical, 8.
- Royal Society of Literature, 4.
- Society of Arts, 8.—On the Defects in the Optical Instruments used by Photographers, by J. Glaisher, Esq.
- British Archaeological, 8.
- Royal Institution, 4.—On Organic Chemistry, by Dr. A. W. Hofmann.
- Thurs. Society of Antiquaries, 8.
- Royal, 8.
- Royal Institution, 3.—On the General Principles of Geology, by J. Phillips, Esq.
- Fri. Philosophical, 8.
- Royal Institution, 8.—On Recent Discoveries in Organic Chemistry, by Prof. A. Williamson.
- Sat. Medical, 8.
- Royal Institution, 3.—On the Philosophy of Chemistry, by Prof. A. Williamson.

FINE ARTS

Metal Work and its Artistic Design. By Mr. Digby Wyatt, Architect. Day & Son.

If the Great Exhibition was less satisfactory in some of its Art departments than it was successful as well as astonishing as a whole—if it showed many things that seemed intended rather to encourage the passion for mere display than to discipline and refine taste,—it has certainly given a stimulus to the kind of study most likely to produce the last-mentioned highly desirable result, and thereby correct the mischief to taste that might else have arisen. It is no small matter, that a tolerably comprehensive and systematic scheme for training up skilled workmen in the higher branches of ornamental manufacture has been taken up and begun to be acted on. So far, well:—but the good which is so to be effected requires to be seconded by something like systematic Art-education for the public. An acquaintance with the principles of Art and the philosophy of aesthetics should be reckoned amongst the requisites of a liberal education,—whereas such instruction is ignored by our colleges and schools, and left to be picked up bit by bit, casually and superficially, just as individual inclination may prompt. It is a delusion to suppose, that for the advancement of Art nothing more is requisite than taste and ability on the part of those who exercise it professionally. Account must be taken, also, of the taste, or no taste, of employers and paymasters:—for, were that ever so bad or whimsical, it must be complied with and ministered to, if it be true that

Those who live to please, must please to live.

—Art has sometimes more to dread from wealth than from the want of it; for, in opulent countries and communities, the "hurricanes" of fashion not unfrequently occasion vicissitudes in taste no less calamitous than sudden,—and what was yesterday *à la Pericles* must to-day be *à la Louis Quatorze*.

Were it not that what we have been saying

appears to be too generally overlooked, we should apologise for dwelling so unduly long on what is very obvious to ourselves, and may be so to some of our readers. At any rate, some apology may be considered due to Mr. Digby Wyatt for our making the particular work of his now under notice a peg on which to hang certain "ready cut and dry" remarks. We say this "particular work," because Mr. Wyatt has given us more than one other work of superlative beauty as regards execution, of fresh or freshly-awakened interest as regards the subjects,—and all the more welcome for their making their appearance at a period of unusual dearth and drought in architectural publication.

Putting aside their other merits—the didactic information to be gathered from them included,—the several works brought out by Mr. Digby Wyatt may be called so many triumphs of chromolithography:—a process which, if it do not exactly constitute a new art, confers on art and ornamental design greatly enlarged power of graphic utterance. So exquisite, in fact, are some of his specimens of chromolithography, that they must evidently be perfect transcripts of the original drawings,—if they do not even surpass them in brilliancy. This mode of execution is, however, fitter for the exhibition of positive and unbroken colour than of colour as affected by the accidents of aerial perspective, with all its concomitant modifications of light and shade. It stands, therefore, in somewhat the same relation to *picture*, or pictorial colouring, as geometrical delineation does to the usual mode of drawing. But if this circumstance seems rather to narrow the sphere of chromolithography, such mode of geometrical colour—so to call it—promises to perform the most valuable service for all ornamental design in which colour takes a prominent part. Until this new process was discovered, scarcely any notice was taken of colour in books professing to give artistic instruction in the various branches of decoration and ornamental design. To which omission, and to the mistaken notion that colour, or polychromatic effect, was irreconcilable with purity and chasteness of taste, may be attributed that unhappy chromatophobia which in modern times has, until quite recently, prevailed amongst us. Granting that beauty of form deserves our first and most careful consideration, it does not follow that colour—which is to form what the air is to the words of a song—is to be overlooked as neither contributing, nor capable of contributing, to the total of gratification. But, a truce to what is again likely to be looked on as something "ready cut and dry" from our common-place book!

If it is no small merit of the publication before us, that its letter-press portion contains a considerable quantity of both preceptive remark and historical information,—it is one which causes us at the same time a certain dissatisfaction. We regret that the valuable instruction to be derived from the text was not put into a more convenient form for study and reference. Its actual quantity is such, that it should have been given in the shape of an octavo volume, apart from, but accompanying, the folio plates. Objections to such separation of the literary and graphic portions of a publication, no doubt, there are,—but it has occasionally been adopted:—in one edition, for instance, of Cicognara's *Storia della Scultura*, and of his *Fabbriche di Venezia*. Nor is it altogether too late, even now, for Mr. Digby Wyatt to do this in a way that would accommodate all parties and obviate all objections:—viz., by simply reprinting his excellent Essay on the Theory, Practice, and History of Design in Metalwork, in a cheap and readable form. That would be even an improvement on what has hitherto been done; because while the folio would always be complete, there would be an extra copy of the letter-press that might be made use of freely, and left to take its chance of being lost or injured. Nor is that all; for the cheap octavo pamphlet—or whatever else it might be—would not only bring the instruction contained in the letter-press within the reach of many who cannot afford to purchase the plates, but might be attended with the further advantage to all concerned of making the work more generally known.

The letter-press—which, exclusively of the description of the plates, amounts here to seventy closely-printed large folio pages—is in three divisions,—treating respectively of the Theory, the Practice, and the History of the various kinds of Metalwork and its several applications. Under the head of 'Theory,' we obtain much intelligent criticism, and greatly needed preceptive advice, which if attended to would benefit Art generally. Among the observations which we do not recollect to have before met with in any shape, are those bearing on the excessive—and as it is here called, enfolding—division of labour which is one characteristic of the present day.

"In cases," says the writer, "where diversities of opinion on matters of design exist, the differers being intelligent, we usually meet with a degree of mutual tolerance;—but at the present day the system of the division of labour so circumscribes even such men's opportunities of study, that they are generally content to acquiesce in the opinion of any one who may especially devote himself to a speciality which they may not have leisure to analyze properly, although their own experiences as incidentally affecting the subject may lead them to other and conflicting conclusions."

—As far as mere execution is concerned, the division of labour may be attended by advantages; but there ought to be some presiding intelligence also, capable of controlling the subordinate agencies, and making all the several specialities work in concert, and contribute successfully to aggregate effect.

The following is one of the excellent bits of preceptive criticism which are to be found in this book.—

"No successful results can be attained in production of beautiful iron-work, or beautiful anything else, until one of three things take place:—either, first, until the manufacturer and designer are one individual doubly-gifted; or secondly, until the manufacturer takes the pains to investigate and master so much of the elements of design as shall at least enable him to judiciously control the artist; or thirdly, until the artist, by a careful study of the material and its manufacture, shall elaborate and employ a system of design in harmony with and special to the peculiarities so evolved."

—Than this nothing can be better, or better expressed; yet, perhaps, a "fourthly" must be added to all or any of these:—viz.,—Until employers and purchasers shall cultivate and become guided by rational aesthetic study, and, in consequence, emancipate themselves from the tyranny of mere fashion.

A little further on, there occurs a wholesome remark,—very applicable to, if not actually levelled against, the railing of the British Museum.—

"It is," says Mr. Wyatt, "a great mistake to suppose that a so-called rich cast railing will make a poor building or one destitute of ornament look handsomer,—like the beggar's cloak, it only draws attention the more readily to the poverty which it is intended to conceal."

—Whether Mr. Wyatt here alluded to our National Museum or not, he has not scrupled to protest openly against one egregious and barbarous solecism for an instance of which he refers us to that hyper-classical structure,—namely, that of degrading Doric columns into the cast-iron balusters of a stair-case.—While commending the doors of the Madeleine at Paris as most satisfactory examples of design and execution in bronze work, Mr. Wyatt might have expressed his regret that our own metropolis should not supply us with a single specimen of a similar application of the same material. Of even our most costly buildings, the doors, if not the doorways also, are of very ordinary character and design. Perhaps the maximum of taste shown in them is to be found in those of St. Pancras Church:—as almost the minimum is, in the entrance doors of the unlucky British Museum.

Nor without ample reason does Mr. Digby Wyatt animadvert stringently on the bad, and even coarse, taste too often shown in so-called "Testimonials" which take the shape of plate:—things without the slightest artistic merit,—and whose worth cannot be better ascertained than by putting them into the melting-pot, and extracting their marketable matter-of-fact value.—One of the mistakes into which designers are apt to fall is, that of being too *figurative*—too much addicted to *imagery*,—applying human and animal forms to numerous articles for which merely ornamental patterns would be far more suitable. We are glad to find such perversion of plastic art and imitation here condemned,—and some of the puerile and trivial conceits and toyish fancies to which it gives rise animadverted on with no undue severity. We

would not, indeed, enforce the Mohammedan law which prohibits the imitation of animated forms; but they should be employed more sparingly and with more discretion than usually they are at present. They frequently appear to be resorted to merely as the readiest means of attracting notice:—whereby, not only does the ornamentalist invade the province of sculpture and painting, but he neglects that which should be his own peculiar study.

Of ornament, in the proper and legitimate sense of the term, the plates in this volume—to whose excellence we have already borne testimony—afford many beautiful and highly suggestive examples.—We wish, however, that greater attention had been paid to consecutive arrangement of the subjects,—so that those of the same class had been kept together. Reference to and comparison of these would thus have been greatly facilitated. Of course, miscellaneousness produces the appearance of greater variety,—still it is attended with some inconvenience.—This slight fault is all that we can find, to qualify the praise which we must bestow on the splendid and instructive volume before us.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—The Photographic Exhibition at the Society of Arts has proved highly attractive; and this was to be expected when we consider its novelty and intrinsic excellence. We have no means of knowing the number of the visitors, but some idea may be formed from the fact that more than two hundred catalogues have been sold in one day. Within the last few days the collection has been increased by a number of excellent photographs of Venetian buildings—including the Doge's Palace, St. Mark's, and other places embalmed in history; and it is curious to see on the time-worn pillars of the former the printed placards of the present day announcing some order of the Austrian Government, or informing the Venetian population of the amusements provided for them.—The Exhibition will, in consequence of its attraction, be kept open until Saturday the 29th instant.

The notice of the Leeds Town Hall competition which we gave last week from a correspondent, has brought us the following remarks from a different quarter.—“Among much else that is calculated to excite surprise in the paragraph—it is not the least extraordinary circumstance, that three such unusually liberal premiums, to say nothing of the importance of the opportunity held out to architects, should have tempted no more than thirteen competitors to enter the lists. Or,—was the competition a limited one? That it was judiciously conducted, and has been eminently successful, there can be no doubt. The prize has been impartially awarded to merit—to talent unassisted by the *prestige* of previous reputation. Like poor Lonsdale Elmes, Mr. Cuthbert Broderick makes his professional *début* with a work sanctioned by no less an authority than Sir Charles Barry. Having raised curiosity so highly,—your correspondent should now do something towards gratifying it, by entering into an explanatory description of the design. At present, he has not so much as given us an idea of either site or size; all that we gather from him is, that the style is Roman Corinthian,—that there is a portico,—and that the front elevation exhibits a structure of great artistic elegance combined with grandeur.”—If our correspondent should propose to comply with the suggestion here made, he must, however, take a little more pains than before to assure himself as to the correctness of his details,—for some of his statements in the paragraph of last week have already received correction in the following letter addressed to us by Sir Charles Barry.—

“Westminster, January 18, 1853.

“In the last number of the *Athenæum* is inserted a communication from a correspondent relative to the recent decision in respect of the designs submitted for a new Town Hall at Leeds, in which, I am reported to have predicted, with respect to the design adopted, that the future Town Hall of Leeds would be ‘the most perfect architectural gem out of London.’ Although I have a very high opinion of the merits of that design, and said much in praise of it to the committee who adopted my recommendation in its favour, I did

not make use of the expression imputed to me; nor did I recommend the adoption of a cupola, to conceal the arched roof of the Great Hall,—which is not of glass, as stated by your correspondent,—and which I do not consider to be either an ‘incongruous addition’ to the building, or likely to have been suggested by the roof of the Crystal Palace.—I should be much obliged to you to correct these misstatements in your next number.

“I am, &c. CHARLES BARRY.”

An attempt is making to complete the Wellington Monument erected many years ago on the Blagdon Hills, in Somersetshire, near the town from which the late Duke took his title. The column is there,—the bronze statue, as designed originally, is still wanting; and this last it is now proposed to add, together with a small hospital for decayed soldiers—the inmates of which are to be considered as the custodians of the monument. Last week a county meeting was held at Taunton to consider this project,—and an influential body adopted resolutions to carry it into effect.

The collection of busts of eminent Italians ordered by the Republican Government being now complete, with the few exceptions arising from the peculiar taste of the Papal Government,—they have been placed on the Pincian Hill, where they greatly add to the interest of the promenade.—The design would be completed by the erection of a temple to the imaginary divinity of Rome.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY. Exeter Hall.—Conductor, Mr. Costa.—On FRIDAY NEXT, Jan. 28, will be repeated Mendelssohn's ‘Elijah.’ Vocalists: Madame Fiorentini, Miss Deakin, Miss Dolby, Miss F. Huddart, Mr. Lockey, Mr. J. A. Novello, and Mr. Weiss. The Orchestra, the most extensive available in Exeter Hall, will consist of (including 16 double Basses) nearly 700 Performers. Tickets, 2s. 6s., and 10s. 6d. each. The Subscription is One, Two, or Three Guineas per annum, and for the past two years included Eleven Concerts. Tickets obtained and Subscriptions received at the Society's Office, No. 6, in Exeter Hall.

MUSICAL WINTER EVENINGS.—Willis's Rooms.—On SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, at half-past 8, will be performed MOZART'S QUARTETT in A, Schubert's Trio in E flat, Mendelssohn's Quartet in A, and Beethoven's Sonata, with the Funeral March, Homage to the Departed Duke. Executants:—Mellie, Mellon, Goffie, Webb, and Piatelli. Pianist, Halle, who will arrive in London for this concert expressly. The remaining concerts will take place on Thursdays. A few sofas, with reserved places for five persons, are to be obtained on application to the Director. Subscription for the four evenings, One Guinea; Single Tickets, 7s. For Prospectuses and particulars, apply to Crumey & Co., Regent-street. J. E. LLA, Director.

HARMONIC UNION.—The Second Concert of this new Society, held on Thursday, and devoted to secular music, went off with great spirit, and was full of interesting matter. The programme included Beethoven's music to ‘The Ruins of Athens,’ Mendelssohn's ‘Walpurgis Night,’ and a miscellaneous act.—This last commenced with Mr. Henry Leslie's clever overture, ‘The Templar,’ and introduced to us a young American pianist, Mr. W. Mason (the son, we are told, of the professor of Psalmody) who played Weber's ‘Concert Stück’ with *zeal* and spirit; also Herr Nabich, the first solo player on the trombone that we have heard in London since Signor Cioffi, and who seems to aspire (among the German artists) to the mantle of that great trombonist, Herr Queisser, of Leipzig. Herr Nabich performed a Concert by David, with great *verve* and vigour;—his tone is elastic—his execution great, without any apparent distress. His intonation was not always unimpeachable; but wind instruments, besides being subject to “skiey influences” in no common degree, suffer from the least nervousness on the part of the player. On all grounds, then, Herr Nabich may be considered as an effective musical “lion” should he pass the season here. As an orchestral player, we can add, from experience, he is excellent.—The lady singers were, Miss Huddart, Mrs. Weiss, and Madame Fiorentini. The last Lady but one never lets us hear her magnificent *soprano* voice without making us wish that it had been cultivated as it deserves. Madame Fiorentini improves greatly, and will soon be in the first rank of our concert-singers.—The gentlemen were, Mr. Benson and Mr. Weiss:—the latter of whom, also makes progress, and has now “the ball at his foot.”

STRAND.—The play in five acts, entitled ‘Civilization,’ to which we alluded in our Gossip of last

week, was performed here on Monday. Advertised as entirely new,—it is not strictly so; having, as we then said, been lately acted at the City of London Theatre. To the west end of the metropolis, however, the piece is a novelty; and the story of its production at, and progress from, the east, is at once instructive and suggestive. For the last eight years, all theatres, major and minor, have been legally entitled to perform five-act plays,—and have, in a greater or less degree, availed themselves of the privilege. Shakspeare has been acted at out-of-the-way theatres, and even at the saloons, whenever a “star” from the legitimate boards, in want of an engagement, found it to his or her interest to wander in their direction. Performers of name have in these places for a few weeks received very high terms. Indeed, the “starring system,” worn out at the Haymarket and at similar theatres, has emigrated to the minors; and possibly for a while may do good service there, by educating the taste of rude audiences to the appreciation of a more artistic style of acting than they usually have the opportunity of witnessing. But as yet the system had not included the production on such occasions of original dramas,—this was still a privilege reserved to the more expensive theatres. At length, an innovation has taken place in this respect also. Mr. Anderson, the late lessee of Drury Lane, having been profitably engaged last season as a “star” at the City of London Theatre, considered that the attraction might be increased by the production of a new five-act play. The management had not to go far in search of their author. Mr. John Wilkins, a subordinate actor at Sadler's Wells, had for some time been employed as melo-dramatic playwright to the establishment. To him was confided the task of preparing the vehicle for the new experiment; and hopeless as the case might on the first blush appear, the result was, that this humble and unknown labourer in the more obscure dramatic mines turned out a five-act piece which not only filled the house nightly to the ceiling, but obtained and deserved a considerable amount of critical appreciation. Under these circumstances, Mr. Anderson naturally finds it to his interest to identify himself with the hero of the drama; and having been engaged at the Strand Theatre, he has placed the piece on a stage where it falls within the limits of our inquiry, and appeals to our judgment for a verdict on its merits.

The subject of the play of ‘Civilization’ is taken from Voltaire's story, ‘L'Ingénu,’—and portrays the difficulty experienced by an Indian in France in realizing to himself the notion of “civilization” from the practice and precepts of the persons with whom he has been brought into contact. From the period of his landing, this intelligent Huron has won the regards of the Prior of St. Malo,—and, by his willingness to be instructed, he has earned the right of baptism; his sponsor being, the Prior's ward, Hortense,—in whom he has awakened a more tender interest than that implied in the relation of godmother. During the first act, *Hercule* (such is the name by which the Huron has been christened) retains the costume of his tribe; but in the second act, he appears in the usual habit of a Frenchman. He has made great progress in study,—but does not conciliate friends in the same proportion in which he cultivates polite attainments. The Bailiff and his son are his enemies for having shot their bull, the terror of the neighbourhood; and he has besides excited their envy by leading on the villagers to the defence of the coast against a party of invading English. A *Madame de Kirkabon* and a *M. Lascelles*, secretary to *Lowvois*, the minister of *Louis Quatorze*, also oppose his interests,—the latter out of love for Hortense. M. Lascelles discovers that by the ecclesiastical law the latter's marriage with the Huron is impossible,—it being forbidden by the code of Rome for a man to marry his godmother unless by virtue of a dispensation from the Pope. This, it is suggested, the King's interest might procure; and *Hercule*, having served France, determines, therefore, on a personal application to his Majesty,—and visits Paris and Versailles for the purpose of advancing his claims. Here he meets with every species of difficulty, and incurs

the enmity of the interview with the c Versailles, mately the interferences paying him through the adherence the Pope with Le B to turn tra it up for temptation document, the origin confusion; treachery by virtue of Hercule procurer's of minor i these resul The cate conducted early part too didacti these for tedious. feeling,— knowledge interest to in earnest acquainta constructi enabled M produces a City of Lo its new sta New scen ments we —and, wh was not i was good a spirit perform history of the existen in this inst play. It can be ma serve for i the deterio inments t been confi

OLYMPIC house a Barnett, of St. Yves. founded or was found afterwards a species of which has shly well authors an arrangement the situat they have stands still the dialogu perplexes the comic Compton lamour. are mere n however, r tory, from effect and much of th showed to shall be fu enable her lamour. J had given fill up,—in ident, in

the enmity of Louvois. In his endeavour to obtain an interview with Louis, he gets involved in a brawl with the courtiers, is shot down in the gardens at Versailles, and incarcerated in the Bastille. Ultimately the King becomes fully instructed in his case, interferes for his release, and insists on the courtiers paying him proper respect. His friend, the Prior, through the agency of one Victor le Bel, gains the adherence of a bishop—who successfully solicits the Pope for the dispensation. Lascelles bargains with Le Bel, who has possession of the document, to turn traitor to his cause and friend, and surrender it up for sale. Le Bel, affecting to yield to the temptation, palms off on his tempter a copy of the document,—and at the proper moment produces the original. The conspirator is covered with confusion; and being found guilty, besides, of treachery to the king,—he is conveyed to the Bastille by virtue of a *lettre de cachet*, intended originally for Hercule, but by the latter filled up with the procurer's own name.—We have omitted a variety of minor incidents and motives which work up to these results.

The catastrophe of the play is more dramatically conducted than the scenes which lead to it. The early part is overwritten;—the dialogue being far too didactic, and the text, "Civilization," made the theme for continual sermonizing that becomes tedious. But, throughout, there are thought and feeling,—with occasionally wit, and an apparent knowledge of the world, that give piquancy and interest to the scenes. The writer, too, is evidently in earnest; and everywhere he displays a sufficient acquaintance with stage business, and considerable constructive power. These qualifications have enabled Mr. Wilkins to compose a play of unquestionable merit,—which at the Strand Theatre produces as strong an impression as it did at the City of London. The performance of the piece on its new stage was better than we had expected. New scenes had been painted for it,—the appointments were respectable,—the dresses decent,—and, with one or two exceptions, the acting was not ineffective. Mr. Anderson, of course, was good in the Huron; and in the other parts a spirit of evident painstaking pervaded the performance. The progress indicated by the history of this drama is cheering as a proof of the existence of taste in the masses sufficient, as in this instance, to initiate a reputation for a new play. It will be well if for this taste provision can be made, and institutions established that may serve for its cultivation at a cheap rate, without the deteriorating adjuncts which beset the establishments to which for the most part it has hitherto been confined.

OLYMPIC.—On Monday was produced at this house a new three-act play by Mr. Morris Barnett, from the French of MM. Albrize and St. Yves. It is entitled "Lilian Gervais,"—and is founded on the story of Marie Salomon, who in 1781 was found guilty of poisoning her master, and afterwards proved to have been innocent. This is a species of interest not new to melo-drama,—and which has generally proved effective when tolerably well managed. We cannot congratulate the authors and adapter of this piece on the skilful arrangement of the materials or on the conduct of the situations. In the distribution of motives they have been deficient,—much of the action stands still for want of intelligible impulse,—and the dialogue, overheavy with mysterious references, perplexes rather than explains the incidents. In the comic portions it is poor,—and even Mr. Compton found it difficult to supply them with humour. The characters, excepting the heroine, are mere make-weights of the scene. *Lilian* was, however, represented by a *débütante*, Miss Anderson, from Manchester, with much melo-dramatic effect and power of expression. Her manner has too much of the stage tradition, perhaps; but her acting showed touches of natural feeling which, when she shall be further advanced in London practice, will enable her to claim a considerable place in public favour. As we have indicated, the playwright had given to her a somewhat striking outline to fill up,—in some points remarkably so. One incident, in particular, is well conceived:—the con-

fusion of mind attendant on the trial of the heroine, arising from an internal suggestion that there is something, if she could but recollect it, that would tend to clear up her case and prove her innocence.—The general merit of the performance brought the curtain down with applause,—and the *débütante* received the customary ovation in testimony of her success.

THE "ORDER" SYSTEM AT THE FRENCH THEATRES.

WHILE our all-but defunct English theatre has been trying to settle accounts with "the press-gang," the world of "Wooden O's" in France (there, by the way, no world of ciphers) has also been undergoing its revolution. The dynasty of the *Romains*, whose doings were the other day so sharply set down by M. Berlioz in his *Soirées d'Orchestre*, has come to a violent end. To change the classical designation, Greek has met Greek,—despotism has put down despotism. The Minister of the Interior, under Napoleon the Third, has marched into the theatres, and bid the *claqueurs* march out. Let us tell the story more gravely. While it has been a practice with English managers to admit a part of the public into their theatres gratuitously, either for the purpose of giving the house a full appearance, or, according to Mr. Mathews's version, because the parties so favoured undertake to make an adequate return in approval and applause, our neighbours of late years have reduced the affair to its simplest forms. A certain firm in Paris undertook to secure the stage success of any piece for a fixed sum of money, according to the size of the theatre, the length of the play, and its dramatic incapacities.—This fact has long been known; but it has rarely been so neatly or so opportunely presented to the public as on the occasion of a trial just decided before the French courts of justice. To quote our contemporaries:

"There exists in Paris a firm—MM. Louat & Co.—whose professed business is to procure dramatic success by judiciously packing a theatre with "*claqueurs*," who steadily applaud a piece for a certain number of nights, after which public enthusiasm is accepted as a *fait accompli*. This firm recently made a treaty with MM. Werner, the directors of the Ambigu, by which, in consideration of the sum of 8,000 francs paid down, MM. Louat & Co. were to receive a certain number of tickets, at greatly reduced prices, for the next two years, it being understood that the persons admitted by these tickets would systematically applaud the performance. At the end of a month, however, M. Desnoyer succeeded MM. Werner in the direction of the theatre. The new management repudiated the contract with MM. Louat, who thereupon brought an action to enforce it. This action was dismissed by the Tribunal of Commerce, upon the ground that a treaty, the real object of which was to produce fictitious applause in a theatre, must be considered illegal and contrary to public order. MM. Louat then sued MM. Werner and M. Desnoyer, as their assignees, for the restitution of 8,000 francs, and the French law not going so far as the English, which will not allow money paid for an illegal purpose to be recovered back, they have succeeded in the latter suit."

—The system, at the best of times, did not work well. While in London the distribution of orders has been a source of annoyance to the Press and of loss to the managers, in Paris the *claqueur*-system has entailed a large expenditure without a corresponding result,—losing such value as it ever possessed from the instant that the machinery became known. No gain accrued to author or management from acclamations rendered as per contract:—and the authorities, as we have said above, have at length interfered to put down the nuisance.—Great has been the stir among the journalists. The measure is generally approved. The *Revue des Théâtres* says—"It will be difficult, if not impossible, to make this reform as complete and absolute as could be desired. The police cannot always distinguish between spontaneous and hired applauders. But it has expressly interdicted any admissions before the opening of the doors, so as to have the house perfectly empty when the public enters. Henceforth the *claqueurs*, deprived of their private entrance, will be subjected to the common lot, and this measure will certainly embarrass them in the exercise of their industry."—The *feuilletoniste* of the *Constitutionnel*, M. Fiorentino, is more hopefully "on virtue's side," and sings a positive *bravura* of triumph over the discomfiture of hired applause.—The *Gazette Musicale* adverts to the change as problematical and provisional, mentioning the discouraging rumour that the *claque* is as yet neither killed, nor even "scotched," but will be back in

its old nooks and corners next week, or before the penitential season of Lent sets in!

Not the least diverting sign of the times was to be found in a late *feuilleton* of the *Journal des Débats*. Every now and then, conscientious people, puzzled over classification, are tempted to help themselves after the fashion of the Augustan-English wit who talked of "men, women, and *Hervey*." Thus, it might be said, there are honest critics, dishonest critics, and Janins,—the last, persons who hit right and left, fairly and unfairly—who, in the heat of high professional spirits, abuse others without discretion, contradict themselves without modesty, quote without real erudition, and rhapsodize long after the fire of genuine enthusiasm is out,—yet who still, in their odd French way, have a feeling for the dignity of letters, the importance of the press, and its right to kick and cuff as it will.—Never have these qualities been more whimsically displayed than in relation to our theatrical quarrel. M. Janin is foremost and bitterest among the indignant;—but he attacks the recent English doings of Mr. Charles Mathews with a prefatory hit at his past letter to the French dramatists, as sharp as if M. Janin had not praised the self-same letter in his best fashion when it was published,—and he shows that misty knowledge of facts which appears to be generic in the French author when he tries to deal with English events.—"An English *bel esprit*, M. Angus," says M. Janin, "editor of the *Morning Chronicle*," was put to the door of the *Lyceum* by Mr. Mathews "for declaring that some 'admirable farce' by Mr. Charles Mathews was not a farce by Shakespeare!" Thereupon—partly (it would seem) to avenge the French authors for the past affronts of Mr. Mathews's pamphlet, and partly to maintain the universal right of free speech on the part of the press,—our *feuilletoniste*, half laughing, half crying, discharges, pell-mell, a rattling volley of his tinsel artillery against the English dramatist who maligned French morals and the English manager who would tamper with English literary independence!—To those who are familiar with life behind the curtain in the Parisian theatres, this burst of virtue is as amusing as the comical incorrectness with which the censor has snatched hold of his facts. Take both, however, for what they are worth, as making up a piece, not of criticism, but of Janin-ism,—they afford another indication that the consequences of indirect traffickings betwixt managers and critics are beginning to be felt elsewhere than in the Strand of London, and furnish a scrap of encouragement for those who hold that the time is ripe for introducing measures of reform.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—The first manager who has met the new condition of things between the Press and the Theatres in a spirit of frank and liberal concession, and moved towards replacing the long abused and now abandoned privilege on a healthy and convenient footing, is, Mr. Webster. In the spirit which we suggested last week, he accepts the renunciation of the press for so much of the condemned arrangement as was bad, and desires to restore that portion which was natural and expedient in the relations between the critic and the stage. The proposition which he makes to us, and others, is,—

"That the names of the proprietor, or manager, editors, dramatic critics, and such other responsible officers of the Journal, as may be designated by the proprietors, shall be inscribed on the free list for personal admissions on all occasions, except benefits; and on the first production of new pieces, a place shall be reserved for the representative of the Journal who, if he cannot use it on that evening, shall have it exchanged for a more convenient opportunity."

—We have only at the last moment received Mr. Webster's letter. The manner of it points to a settlement of the dispute, so far as his houses—the Haymarket and the Adelphi—are concerned, likely to be finally satisfactory to all parties; although we think, at the first hasty view, that it remains to be questioned whether the terms of the new privilege which he offers are not too extensive. The matter shall, however, have our immediate attention.

Our contemporaries announce the death in America of Mr. E. Seguin. This gentleman had one of the finest bass voices ever heard, and began his

professional career in England with more than ordinary promise of success. There is a stage, however, at which every young artist seems for awhile to stand still,—and from which, unless the suspense be turned to account by the most strenuous work, he will never emerge into first-rate occupation, honour, and profit. Having arrived at this point, Mr. E. Seguin preferred continuing his career in America to working it out in England. In the United States he has been for a dozen years at least, singing, managing opera-companies, &c.:—and we are happy to read that by so doing he has been able to leave a competence to his family. Had he stayed on this side of the Atlantic, we need not have been looking out (as we must needs do) for the successor to Mr. Phillips.

Another death of more immediate consequence to English music took place suddenly on Thursday last—that of Mr. Harper, the veteran professor of the trumpet, who is the last of that galaxy of players to which Mackintosh, Mori, Nicholson, Lindley, and Willman belonged, and, as such, was associated with all the great English performances of music during the earlier half of this century. Mr. Harper was attending the rehearsal of the *Harmonic Union* on Thursday morning, when a sudden seizure at the heart compelled him to leave the orchestra. He shortly afterwards expired,—it may be almost said, with his instrument in his hand—leaving behind him, not only the memory of one of the greatest among great players belonging to his day and to his country, but also the reputation of an amiable and honourable man. The concert of the *Harmonic Union* in the evening commenced with 'The Dead March' in 'Saul,' in commemoration of the sad event of the morning.

In aid of the objects of the lectures at the Weigh House Chapel mentioned last week, we may mention, on good authority, that gratuitous admissions to the course are given to any precursor or clergyman making due application.

M. Robert Müller, the well-known pianist and translator of 'Kiesewetter's History of Music,' has just received a diploma as pianist to H.M. the King of Saxony.

MISCELLANEA

Elementary Drawing for Female Classes.—The following new rules have recently been sanctioned by the Board of Trade for the management of the Metropolitan Female School at 37, Gower Street.—Students before entering the Elementary School must be able to draw the copies of the letters A O and S, which may be obtained at the school; and they must also have a knowledge of the names of certain geometrical forms which are contained in a text-book of definitions of practical geometry, to be obtained at the Female School,—and no student will be admitted without examination on such book. Every student desirous of entering the upper school must make drawings from the most advanced examples in the elementary school, and have a knowledge of the elementary laws of colour:—a text-book of the laws of colour may be obtained at the school, on which every applicant for admission to the upper school will be examined. The new fees are as follows:—General course, entrance fee, 2s. Elementary classes, 3s. a month,—7s. for three months, and 10s. for six months. Advanced classes, 4s. a month, 9s. for three months, 12s. for six months; course for the figure and artistic anatomy, 4l. 4s. a year, or 30s. a quarter. The classes meet in the day-time as usual,—but an evening class for those who cannot attend in the day is to be forthwith established.

Indian Postage.—Burnley Hall, Norfolk, Jan. 17.—In the *Athenæum* of the 15th inst., after giving some abstracts from the Report of the Postal Commission in India, you state its great value,—and that it holds out a hope that something will be done to improve the postal service in India. Those words induce me to think, that you are not aware that orders were sent from the Court of Directors in the month of Nov. last, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission *as regards letters*; and I moved for a copy of the Report and of the orders thereon, to be laid before Parliament—which was ordered—in the hope that the reasons and the examples therein given will decide the question I have so much at heart, viz., "the establishing the postage to any British

colony, as is done between the Channel Islands and England—"a penny postage and always prepaid." If you have been unimpressed on these matters you will excuse my troubling you with what I consider excellent news; and I have the fullest confidence that the Ministry of the Earl of Aberdeen will carry out that penny postage forthwith. As one of the earliest advocates of an uniform low postage, I apply the same rules for my guidance as to the reduction of all high duties on imports, which have led, and do now lead, to smuggling and the one thousand ways of defeating the object of Government. The *frauds* in the post-office in India, as described by the Commissioners, all to avoid the heavy charge) take place on the same principle in the smuggling and adulteration of articles, of tobacco, wine, and on every heavily taxed article. The remedy is the same in all,—a reduction of the charge and increase of the revenue.—I am, &c.

New Hall at Oxford.—The Builder says:—"The Tutors' Association, recently formed, for the extension and the self-reform of the University, propose, amongst other arrangements for the establishment of affiliated and private halls, &c., to erect a new independent hall on the plan of Hatfield Hall, Durham, in which education may be given at the rate of about 60l. per annum."

. We are informed by the Hon. Secretary of the Ethnological Society that the paper on 'The Phonology and Orthography of the Zoolu and Kindred Dialects in Southern Africa,' some weeks since [*Athen.* No. 1313, p.1429] reported by us, and ascribed to the Rev. Dr. J. Adamson, of Cape Town, was merely communicated by that gentleman, and is the work of the Rev. Lewis Grant. The report is given as it was obligingly sent to us by a member of the Society,—and we have no means of correction. It is, in our opinion, a portion of the Secretary's duties, honorary or not, to see that a report be furnished officially to such journals as habitually record the proceedings of the Societies. Publicity is equally the interest of the Society and of our readers,—accuracy is of the utmost importance, and yet cannot be insured except by an official who has the original document before him when he prepares the abstract. This is well understood by the Councils of other Societies, and we submit it for consideration to the Council of the Ethnological. Meanwhile we hold, that for any errors that occur by his omission the Secretary must be held responsible.—We must add that in the same report the word Zoolu is misprinted "Zoolic."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—THE SMALLER SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.—A Correspondent who furnishes some particulars respecting one of these, is requested to favour us with his name.

THE ONOMATOLOGICAL ALMANAC.—The author of this almanac is angry with the notice of his labours which we gave in our last number,—and asks us for it somewhere, &c. &c. He even insinuates unfair dealing. We are accustomed to this sort of thing,—and cannot help it. We repeat, that we doubt not Mr. Peter Legh calculates and predicts with all honesty and earnestness. He has an evident faith in what he is doing and saying. But we, nevertheless, believing him to be mistaken, must say so. We remain perfectly satisfied that no philosopher can safely venture to assume the mantle of a prophet in the direction taken by him while the entire science of meteorology is involved in its present state of obscurity.

A TRAP TO CATCH A SCHEMER.—It is impossible to answer the queries of our Correspondent without experiments which he is in a better position to undertake than we are. W. R. Sidmouth, is thanked for his abstract of M. Foucault's paper. The Gyroscope is now too familiar to our readers to require that we should print it.

J. T. K., jun. has addressed us for the second time on the subject of comets. We cannot entertain an hypothesis, on any subject, which is framed on very superficial knowledge of the phenomena that it seeks to explain. We think if J. T. K., jun. reads the quotation which we made from Mr. Hind's book on Comets (*ante*, p. 16), he will see how untenable are his views.

. The title-page and table of contents for the year 1853 are given with our impression this week; and subscribers are recommended to separate and preserve them carefully, as duplicate copies cannot be had.—The issue of this index sheet leaves us less room for Review matter in the present number than usual.

Erratum.—THE SHAKESPEARE EMBELLISHERS.—In our notice a fortnight since (*ante*, p. 39) of Mr. Payne Collier's volume,—in copying out the examples by which we undertook to maintain the value of the interlined folio, one line was allowed to slip out, by which the emendation itself was lost. What should have been said is, that whereas the old quartos, in the passage describing the effect of the appearance of the ghost upon Bernardo and Marcellus, read—

Whilst they *distill'd*
Almost to jelly with the act of fear,
And the folio—
Whilst they *bestill'd*,—
the better reading is—
Whilst they *beckill'd*
Almost to jelly, &c.

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